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NATO investigates Afghan airstrike

Around 70 reported dead, including civilians

By DREW BROWN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — NATO said Friday that it was investigating an airstrike on two fuel tankers hijacked by Taliban fighters in northern Afghanistan that some Afghan officials said killed dozens of civilians — the latest deadly incident that threatens to complicate the international military mission inside the embattled nation.

The airstrike, which U.S. and German officials confirmed was carried out by an American jet called in by a German forward air controller, killed

more than 70 people, local Afghan authorities said. Among the victims were civilians who had gathered to collect fuel from the tankers after the tankers were hijacked and got stuck on a muddy riverbank.

German officials, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity as a matter of policy, said the strike took place 40 minutes after the commanders requested it and an unmanned surveillance aircraft determined no civilians were in the area. It was unclear whether civilians began to assemble during that time.

SEE AIRSTRIKE ON PAGE 2



Above: Afghan policemen look at one of two fuel tankers destroyed by a NATO airstrike near Kunduz, Afghanistan, on Friday. NATO launched the strike on tankers hijacked by Taliban militants in northern Afghanistan, sparking a huge blast that killed more than 70 people, including civilians, Afghan officials said Friday. Left: Victims injured by the airstrike are taken to a hospital in Kunduz.

AP photos



Patriots
QB Tom
Brady

**FALL
MOVIE
PREVIEW**
Scene magazine



With Brady back, Patriots
expected to be super **Back page**



North Korea says
uranium program
nearly complete **Page 9**

Former GI Green gets
5 life sentences for rape,
murder in Iraq **Page 5**

QUOTE OF THE DAY

[T]his is not civics education. ... This is something you'd expect to see in North Korea or in Saddam Hussein's Iraq."

—Oklahoma Republican state Sen. Steve Russell, on President Barack Obama's planned speech to schoolchildren

See story on Page 17

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our Web site:

1. Gay former sailor says hazing led to PTSD
2. Calm ... then a sudden casualty in Afghanistan war's deadliest month
3. Two units' Afghanistan deployments extended
4. DOD to require H1N1 flu vaccinations for all active-duty personnel
5. U.S. training Georgians for Afghanistan

COMING TOMORROW

Science & Medicine

The devastating effects of food-borne illness



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On the front page of Friday's paper was an Associated Press photo and story package detailing a battle in Afghanistan that led to the death of Lance Cpl. Joshua Bernard. What you did not see in the paper was a blurry, bloody AP photograph that showed two Marines hovering over Bernard, trying desperately to save his life. The publication of the graphic photo in other outlets has become a point of contention between the Pentagon and The Associated Press. For insight into Stars and Stripes' decision not to publish the photo, visit the Stripes Central blog on the Web at <http://blogs.stripes.com/blogs/stripes-central>.



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Airstrike: NATO investigates bombing that killed scores

AIRSTRIKE, FROM PAGE 1

NATO said a "large number of insurgents" were killed or injured in the bombing, which took place in the pre-dawn hours Friday on a riverbank near the village of Omar Khel, in Kunduz province north of Kabul, about five miles southwest of a small German military base.

The airstrike occurred as U.S. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the overall commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, and other senior officials are trying to minimize civilian casualties and turn around the faltering war effort.

In an interview on Thursday, only hours before the Kunduz airstrike, the top noncommissioned officer for U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan said the use of airstrikes and night raids had been sharply curtailed.

"[This] is a sign of how we are changing how we fight," Command Sgt. Maj. Michael T. Hall told Stars and Stripes. "We are not perfect, and mistakes will be made, but hopefully, the new procedures will keep incidents to the bare minimum."

A German defense spokesman told reporters on Friday that German officials were not aware of any civilians killed in Friday's airstrike.

But he added: "We assume almost all killed people were insurgents."

NATO and Afghan authorities have started an investigation, according to a written statement.

"While the attack was clearly directed at the insurgents, ISAF



A NATO airstrike on a pair of stolen fuel trucks in northern Afghanistan leaves dozens of people dead or wounded.



Local Afghans prepare to bury their villagers killed in a NATO airstrike in a mass grave near Kunduz, Afghanistan, on Friday.

AP

will do whatever is necessary to help the community, including medical assistance and evacuation as requested," said Brig. Gen. Eric Tremblay, NATO spokesman, in the statement. "ISAF regrets any unnecessary loss of human life and is deeply concerned for the suffering that this action may have caused our Afghan friends."

ISAF is the NATO-led, 42-nation International Security Assistance Force.

Rezaq Yaqubi, the Kunduz provincial police chief, said that 56 Taliban fighters were killed and 12 were injured in the bombing. He said that civilians were collecting gas from the trucks on the riverbank when the airstrike occurred. He said civilians were killed, but he was unsure how many.

"It is not clear yet," Yaqubi said. "We are still investigating."

Correction

A Sept. 5 story should have stated that two buildings — Nos. S330 and S338 — will be renovated to make a new high school at Camp Walker in U.S. Army Garrison Daegu, South Korea.

The Associated Press, quoting other local Afghan officials, reported that as many as 70 people had been killed, including as many as 40 civilians.

Prior to Friday, Hall said, the last time Afghan civilians had been killed by bombing from NATO jets was in May. In July, at least five civilians were killed and seven wounded after a helicopter struck insurgents with rocket and cannon fire in Zabul province, according to NATO forces.

The alliance says 108 Afghan civilians have been confirmed killed by airstrikes this year. But the United Nations reported last month that at least 40 airstrikes had killed 200 civilians during the first six months of 2009. While acknowledging that steps have been taken to minimize deaths, the U.N. said "airstrikes remain the largest cause of civilian deaths" attributable to NATO and Afghan forces.

McChrystal has issued new counterinsurgency guidelines to international forces that emphasize protecting civilians over killing Taliban fighters.

"We will not win simply by killing insurgents," says the six-page document, published last week. "We will help the Afghan people win by securing them, by protecting them from intimidation,

For the complete text of the counterinsurgency guidance, go to www.nato.int/isaf/docu/official_texts/counterinsurgency_guidance.pdf



violence and abuse, and by operating in a way that respects their culture and religion. This means that we must change the way we think and act and operate."

Calling the counterinsurgency effort a "change in mind-set" for U.S. and NATO forces, Hall said the new approach recognizes that hurting innocent civilians or destroying their property is "going to work against" U.S. and NATO forces.

"So we don't kill the people who are shooting at us," he said. "That's not always a bad thing."

Instead, U.S. and NATO forces will refocus their efforts on denying insurgents control of key populated areas and diminishing insurgents' influence over the Afghan people.

"If we take away the things they want, we win," Hall said. "If we push them away from the cities they occupy and control, we win, and we don't have to kill them."

Yusuf Massoud and Marcus Kloeckner contributed to this story. E-mail Drew Brown at: brwnd@estripes.osd.mil.

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8 guards at U.S. Embassy in Kabul fired

BY KAY JOHNSON
The Associated Press

KABUL — Eight security guards at the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan have been fired following allegations of lewd behavior and sexual misconduct at their living quarters, the embassy said Friday.

The Kabul senior management team of ArmorGroup North America, the private contractor that provides the guards for the State Department, is also "being replaced immediately," an embassy statement said.

The statement said the guards who were fired left the country Friday. Two other guards resigned and left. Their names and nationalities were not released.

The statement said all 10 ap-

peared in photographs that depicted guards and supervisors in various stages of nudity at parties flowing with alcohol.

A team from the State Department inspector general has arrived to lead an investigation, the embassy said.

The scandal surfaced this week when an independent watchdog said guards were subjected to abuse and hazing by supervisors.

The Project on Government Oversight contended the situation had led to a breakdown in morale and leadership that compromised security at the embassy in Kabul, where nearly 1,000 U.S. diplomats, staff and Afghan nationals work.

Nearly two-thirds of the 450 embassy guards are Gurkhas from Nepal and northern India

who speak little English, a situation that creates communications breakdowns, the group said. Pantomime is often used to convey orders and instructions.

In at least one case, supervisors brought prostitutes into the quarters where the guards live, a serious breach of security and discipline, the watchdog said this week.

In other instances, members of the guard force drew Afghans into activities forbidden by Muslims, such as drinking alcohol, it said.

On Thursday, the embassy said alcohol had been prohibited at Camp Sullivan — the off-site location where ArmorGroup guards live — and diplomatic security staff had been assigned to the camp.



Courtesy of the Project on Government Oversight

Officials from the Project on Government Oversight this week sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton demanding action in light of testimony and pictures showing misconduct by security contractors for the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. The State Department has fired eight of the security guards, while two others resigned.



SHAUN CURRY/AP

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, right, and British Defense Secretary Bob Ainsworth answer questions Friday at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

Brown defends presence in Afghanistan

BY PAISLEY DODDS
The Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Gordon Brown defended Britain's military presence in Afghanistan on Friday — a major policy speech that came as a defense aide quit over the mission's strategy and a soldier was court-martialed for refusing to return to the war-torn country.

Brown said insurgents in Afghanistan and Pakistan still presented major terrorist threats.

"Each time I have to ask myself if we are doing the right thing by being in Afghanistan. Each time I have to ask myself if we can justify sending our young men and women to fight for this cause," Brown said in a keynote speech to the think tank Institute of Strategic Studies. "And my answer has always been yes."

American and British opinion polls have shown waning support since the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan began in 2001. Some 730 U.S. troops have been killed, while 212 British soldiers have died. Brown said casualties had risen recently, due in part to the Taliban's increased use of improvised explosive devices.

Brown's speech came at an awkward time for his leadership after being criticized for failing to give clear answers on Afghanistan and other policy issues.

Defense aide Eric Joyce, a former army officer and Labour Party member, resigned Thursday on the eve of Brown's speech. He criticized the government for failing to justify the war to voters and urged Brown to specify when the some 9,000 British troops would be withdrawn.

"I do not think the public will accept for much lon-

ger that our losses can be justified by simply referring to the risk of greater terrorism on our streets," Joyce said in his resignation letter. "We also need to make it clear that our commitment in Afghanistan is high but time limited."

Although Brown gave no details of an exit strategy, he said British troops needed to speed up the Afghan army's training.

"In the spring, NATO announced that we would support the expansion of the Afghan army from 80,000 to 134,000 by November 2011," Brown said.

He said that by November 2010 a third of British troops would be teaming up with Afghan forces and that the U.K. government would provide an extra 20 million pounds (\$32 million) to help stabilize the volatile Helmand province, including police and judicial training.

Britain faces a general election next year, and Afghanistan is likely to be a divisive issue for both Brown's Labour Party and the Conservatives, who are favored to win.

As more troops die, criticism has also turned to a perceived lack of equipment for soldiers. Earlier this summer, Mark Malloch-Brown, an outgoing British foreign minister, said that forces in Afghanistan needed more helicopters, directly contradicting Brown, who said the military had what it needed and spending per soldier had more than doubled since 2006.

Brown said Friday that by next spring, Britain will have doubled the number of helicopters for troops.

Spain said Friday it will consider sending more troops to Afghanistan. It currently has about 1,200 soldiers there.

DOD announces Afghan extensions

BY JEFF SCHOGOL
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Two units' deployments in Afghanistan have been extended, the Defense Department announced Thursday night.

The 82nd Airborne Division Headquarters will spend about 50 extra days in Afghanistan, and the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade will be extended for about two weeks, a Defense Department news release said.

"The process will be managed to avoid stop-loss for personnel," the news release said.

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the commander of U.S. and NATO forces in the country, told Stars and Stripes on Friday that this was an isolated move and he knew of no plans to extend any additional units.

The Defense Department plans to end the use of stop-loss in all but extreme cases by March 2011. Beginning this January, active-duty soldiers will deploy without being subject to stop-loss.

The extensions are meant to ensure that the units' replacements get their full year at home, the news release said.

The 101st Airborne Division Headquarters will deploy six months ahead of schedule to relieve the 82nd.

The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade will also deploy to Afghanistan this spring.

The moves are part of a U.S. Forces-Afghanistan effort to ensure the headquarters in Afghanistan come from the 82nd, 101st and later the 10th Mountain Division for the near term, an Army official said.

That way, the units return to work in areas and with people that they are familiar with, helping them build trust with locals and eventually increasing their

The Defense Department plans to end the use of stop-loss in all but extreme cases by March 2011.

time at home, the official said.

The Army has pursued a similar strategy in Iraq, where the headquarters for U.S. troops in Baghdad has alternated between the 4th Infantry Division and the 1st Cavalry Division, said Army spokesman Lt. Col. Lee Packnett.

"It gives the locals familiarity with the patch, because they identify more with the unit patch than individuals, and probably 30 percent of a unit rotates back," Packnett said.

Still, the news is reminiscent of the bad old days, when units in Iraq were frequently extended, eventually prompting Defense Secretary Robert Gates to lengthen all Army deployments to the U.S. Central Command theater of operations from 12 to 15 months in April 2007.

Army rotations to the CENTCOM theater went back to 12 months in August 2008.

Even with the drawdown in Iraq, the number of soldiers deployed is expected to increase slightly through mid 2010, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey said in January.

U.S. troop strength in Iraq is expected to remain fairly close to what it is now until the elections in January, while the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan is expected to reach 68,000 this year, and the top commander there could ask for more.

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Screeengrabs show the interior and exterior of Chicoma Lodge, the online retreat for veterans who play Second Life.

COURTESY OF INSTITUTE FOR CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES, USC

A virtual world for veterans

BY TERI WEAVER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Pull up a virtual chair and take a load off.

That's what one researcher wants troops and veterans to do inside Chicoma Lodge, a virtual gathering spot on the Internet.

The lodge is the central point of "Coming Home," a project created by Jacquelyn Morie, who teaches at the Institute for Creative Technologies at the University of Southern California.

"It's a VFW of the 21st century," Morie said in a phone interview this summer.

Morie is building the Chicoma Lodge inside Second Life (secondlife.com), a virtual world on the Internet that allows people to meet, play games, shop, build dream homes, hike, vacation, play music, even date. Each person has a virtual self called an avatar that can roam from place to place to look for new activities and friends.

Morie had been researching Second Life, and she and a colleague came up with the idea for a virtual Veterans of Foreign Wars lodge more than a year ago. They wanted to make a space for troops who wanted to talk about their experiences — both deployed

To read more about the project, visit
<http://tinyurl.com/mowmz5>

and at home — with others in similar situations.

"What if we built a center for them within Second Life?" she said of the idea. "We could sprinkle it with some gentle therapy for those who may have second thoughts about getting help."

She applied for and won a \$500,000 Army grant to create the lodge.

"This project serves to provide an alternate outlet for returning veterans that can help them deal with reintegration into society," wrote John Hart, who works at the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, in response to questions about the project.

Chicoma Lodge looks like a ski lodge, with rooms filled with pool tables, couches and fireplaces. But the lodge is only the beginning, Morie says. She's working on a collection of games, similar to the multiplayer games also available on the Internet or through handheld devices.

But Morie wants the activities in Chicoma Lodge to help heal as well as entertain. The lodge includes yoga and martial arts. She's working on

programs for injured troops, who would be able to control their avatar's motions on running paths by breathing into a microphone.

In the time that Morie applied for and won the project, a veterans group formed inside Second Life on its own, she said. Now she's working with its 900 or so members to spread the word about the lodge and invite others to come inside.

Morie opened up the lodge on Second Life in late August, but only to a select group of vets who she's been working with inside the virtual world. Once she has their feedback, she's planning to launch it to the public in October.

Morie said she hopes to eventually have more activities for veterans in the lodge, including group therapy for those who want to talk.

Most people who use Second Life remain anonymous, relying on their avatar to explore new places and experiences, she said. That might make it easier for them to ask for help, she added.

"This is whole new territory," she said. "The best thing (for them) is a lot of group support."

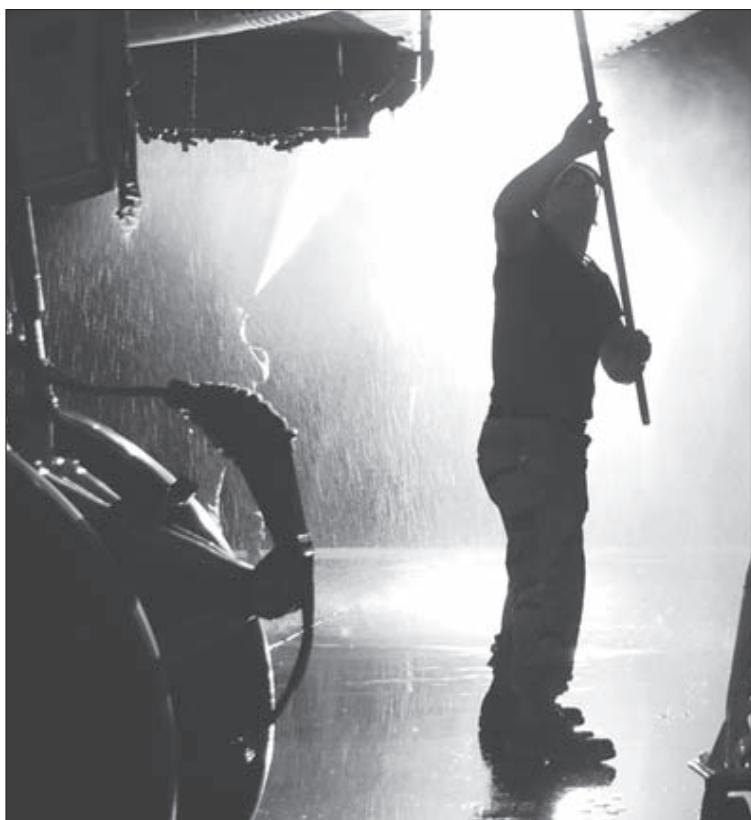
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The daily grime

Petty Officer 3rd Class Sean Robertson washes the underside of a wing of a P-3 Orion on the flightline on Ali Air Base, Iraq, on Thursday. Robertson is an aviation electronics technician.

MICHAEL JAMES
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy



More students eligible for free, low-cost meals

BY DAVID ALLEN
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The poverty levels for families seeking free and reduced price lunches for students attending base schools in Pacific and Europe are about \$1,000 higher this year.

Last year, the maximum income eligibility guideline for a family of four was \$34,450 a year or less for free lunches and \$49,025 annually for reduced price meals. On Friday, the Department of Defense Educational Activity announced the maximums for the same size family are now \$35,841 and \$51,005, respectively.

The rates are for all overseas schools except for Guam, which follows the federal guidelines for the 48 contiguous states.

The new eligibility rates for the Pacific are based on the federal income eligibility rates for Alaska and are in effect through June 30, 2010. The chart is available at: http://www.dodea.edu/offices/logistics/docs/IEGs09_10.pdf.

Families can apply for free or reduced price lunches at any time during the school year, according to a DODEA news release.

The exchange services provide the lunches to schools in the Pacific. According to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the cost of school lunches for students remains unchanged this year, even though nearly 60 percent of the public schools in the U.S. increased school lunch prices an average of 25 cents to keep up with costs, according to the School Nutrition Association.

DODDS elementary school students in the Pacific pay \$2.05 for lunch and secondary students pay \$2.20. Students eligible for reduced prices in elementary and secondary schools pay 40 cents.

Last year, 1,689 of the 18,353 students enrolled in Pacific DODDS schools qualified for free lunches and 1,249 qualified for the reduced price lunches.

Families can apply for the program at their installations.

E-mail David Allen at:
allen@pstripes.osd.mil

Green gets 5 life sentences for Iraqi deaths

Former soldier blames military, says he was only following orders

By BRETT BARROUQUERE
The Associated Press

PADUCAH, Ky. — A former soldier received five consecutive life sentences Friday for his role in the rape and murder of an Iraqi teenager and the slaying of three of her family members.

"What the defendant did was horrifying and inexcusable," U.S. District Judge Thomas Russell said in sentencing Steven Dale Green, 24, of Midland, Texas. "The court believes any lesser sentence would be insufficient."

A civilian jury in western Kentucky convicted Green in May of raping Abeer Qassim al-Janabi, conspiracy and multiple counts of murder.

Green shot and killed the teen's mother, father and sister, then became the third soldier to rape her before shooting her in the face. Her body was set on fire March 12, 2006, at their rural home outside Mahmudiya, Iraq, about 20 miles south of Baghdad.

The panel couldn't reach a unanimous decision about whether Green should get a death sentence, automatically making Green's sentence life in prison. Barring a successful appeal or presidential pardon, Green will not be eligible for release from prison.

Green told the judge he merely

followed orders from other soldiers involved in the attack.

"You can act like I'm a sociopath. You can act like I'm a sex offender or whatever," Green said. "If I had not joined the Army, if I had not gone to Iraq, I would not have got caught up in anything."

At a hearing in May, Green repeatedly apologized to the al-Janabi family, saying he knew little about Iraqis and realizes now his actions then were wrong. Green described the attacks as "evil" and said when he dies "there will be justice and whatever I deserve, I'll get."

During Green's trial, defense attorneys never contested Green's role in the attacks. Instead, they focused on saving his life by putting on witnesses who testified that the military failed Green on multiple fronts — by allowing a troubled teen into the service, not recognizing and helping a soldier struggling emotionally and providing inadequate leadership.

During the sentencing hearing, defense attorney Patrick Bouldin said Green tried to take responsibility for his role in the attacks, twice offering to plead guilty and serve life in prison. Assistant U.S. Attorney Marisa Ford said one offer came on the eve of jury selection, the other two weeks into jury selection.

Green and four other soldiers



DANIEL R. PATMORE/AP

Former 101st Airborne Division Pfc. Steven Dale Green, 24, of Midland, Texas, center, is taken in the back of the court building in Paducah, Ky., by U.S. marshals Friday for formal sentencing to life in prison for the rape and murder of an Iraqi teenager and the shooting deaths of three of her family members in 2006.

with the 101st Airborne Division based at Fort Campbell, Ky., were investigated after the killings. Three who went to the family's home, along with Green, received lengthy sentences up to 110 years but will become eligible for parole in seven years. Another who had a lesser role was released from military prison after serving 27 months.

All except Green were charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and faced a court-martial.

Two of the soldiers who were at the home when Green shot the family pleaded guilty and a military jury convicted a third.

Green said the idea of his co-defendants being out of prison one day is "all right with me."

"They planned it," Green said. "All I ever did was what they told me to do."

Green was the first person charged under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, a law passed in 2000 that allows U.S. authorities to prosecute former military personnel, contractors and others for crimes committed overseas.

WWII pilot to search for buried, lost wings in Germany



Courtesy of Bernard Harding

Bernard Harding — in the back row on the far left — stands with members of his 8th Air Force, 492nd Bomb Group squadron in this undated photo. Sixty-five-years after his plane was shot down over Germany, Harding will return to the small town where he was captured in hopes he can find the lapel wings he buried in the dirt cellar where he was held captive.

By NORMA LOVE
The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — Sixty-five years ago, 1st Lt. Bernard Harding huddled in a cellar with a few other airmen captured by German farmers and buried his pilot's wings, fearful he'd be beaten or shot as an American bomber pilot.

Now, at age 90, Harding wants his wings back. He was heading to Germany on Sunday and hopes — with the help of a German doctor — to find the farm house cellar and dig up the 3-inch-long metal wings he had proudly pinned to his shirt. The house was in rural Klein Quenstedt, Germany, southwest of Berlin, he said.

"I know exactly where the wings are. They're not very deep. I won't need a shovel," he said in a firm, clear voice during a tele-

phone interview from his Milford, N.H., home.

A month after the D-Day invasion of Normandy, Harding was a 25-year-old B-24 pilot flying his 14th mission when he was shot down. Harding, a member of the 8th Air Force's 492nd Bomb Group, was leading nine other B-24s in the 859th squadron on a daylight mission to bomb an aircraft manufacturing plant in Bremen on July 7, 1944. He was carrying 11 other soldiers on his plane.

Harding landed in a freshly cut wheat field. Three farmers captured him and herded him into the cellar. There, Harding dug a hole and buried his wings.

He was loaded onto a train to Frankfurt, interrogated and then sent to a prisoner of war camp in Barth. Ten months later, the Rus-

sians freed the prisoners.

Early this year, a friend of Harding's found a Web site about an old water mill in Klein Quenstedt owned by Dr. Ulrich Heucke, a village resident. The friend e-mailed Heucke describing Harding's quest and asked for help.

Heucke, 41, became intrigued because of his interest in history.

Heucke sent Harding pictures of several houses that might be where he was held, but Harding didn't recognize them. The pictures showed the front of the houses, and Harding had entered through the rear.

Heucke plans to take Harding and his family to four farm houses Wednesday in search of his wings.

"We will just go around. It is the last hope to find the place," he said.

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MEK supporters want U.S. guards for exiles in Iraq

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supporters of an Iranian dissident group based in Iraq called on the Obama administration Thursday to restore U.S. military protection for the exiles, who were attacked by Iraqi security forces on July 28.

They also urged the Iraqi government to release 36 exiles who were taken from the camp during the melee in which 11 Iranians were killed — shot, beaten or run over by military vehicles of Iraqi forces.

Throughout that confrontation, American soldiers who once protected the Iranian opposition group stood by.

At a news conference organized by affiliates of the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran, or MEK, which the U.S. government calls a terrorist group, a retired U.S. general and an Army Reserve officer faulted the U.S. for arguing that it is not obligated by the Geneva Conventions to

protect the exiles.

"Why we think we can simply shirk that responsibility or ignore it, I don't understand," said Gary Morsch, an Army Reserve colonel who was stationed at Camp Ashraf as a battalion surgeon in 2004 and maintains close ties with the exiles there. "I don't know why we won't intervene."

The U.S. military guarded the camp in the aftermath of the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003 under an agreement that made its 3,400 residents "protected persons" under the Geneva Conventions. The military stopped observing the agreement after a new security accord with the Baghdad government took effect in January.

Responsibility for the camp then passed to the Iraqi government, which the State Department says promised not to use force against the group. A small contingent of U.S. military police still monitors the camp, but the military said they were under orders not to intervene in the July 28 confrontation.

Iraqi police clash with Iranian exiles at a camp, north of Baghdad, in July. U.S. soldiers were near the attack, but did not intervene.

AP

Serbia may offer Iraq its own planes to rebuild air force

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia — Serbia may offer Iraq some planes from its aging air force and train its pilots to partly make up for fighter jets sent here for servicing during the Saddam Hussein era that have deteriorated over time, military officials said Friday.

U.S. officials are concerned about Iraq's ability to set up and train a new force by the time most American troops withdraw at the end of 2011. Iraq's financial crisis, caused by plummeting oil revenues, has slowed the process.

Iraq's Defense ministry said last week that it had found during a search of its files that the 19 planes — Soviet-built MiG-21s and MiG-23s — were sent for servicing in 1989 to then Yugoslavia.

Those planes got stuck in Belgrade because of an embargo imposed in 1990 against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait, and because of the wars in the Balkans in the 1990s.

Iraqi officials said the planes could be critical in helping the country take responsibility for its own defense. But Serbia's army commander said they are dilapidated.

"These planes have not been overhauled and they are not in flying condition," army chief-of-staff Gen. Miloje Miletic told reporters. "I personally believe that when the Iraqi side gets to understand the condition of these planes, they will give up their demand."

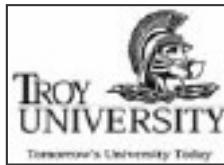
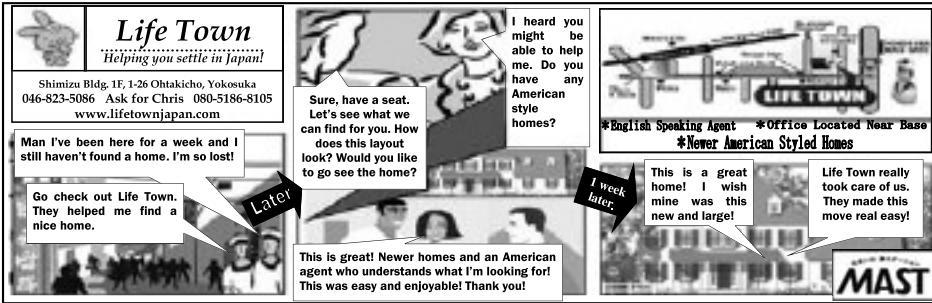
He said without elaborating that "another solution" was possible in solving the Iraqi demand.

Serbian air force officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak about the issue to reporters, said the government may offer Iraq a part of its aging fleet, including jets, to train Iraqi pilots, to partly make up for the loss.

An Iraqi military delegation was in the Serbian capital last month to negotiate the return of the jets.

But Serbian officials say if Iraq plans to use the MiGs to rebuild its air force their hopes will be dashed because most of the planes are useless.

Only two of the jets are still "in one piece," including one that was until recently stored in Belgrade's aircraft museum, the officials said.



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National Guard's entrance standards getting tougher

By MEGHAN BARR
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Suffer from a bad case of acne? That could disqualify you from joining the Army National Guard. Too many speeding tickets? In today's slimmer, smarter Guard, that could keep you out, too.

Under pressure from the Pentagon to trim its ranks, the Guard has been phasing in new restrictions that make it harder to enlist.

"To get in now, you have to be the cream of the crop," said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Clum, a recruiter in Ohio.

Military officials portray the cutbacks as an effort to trim excess from a Guard force that was bloated from years of successful recruiting, especially during the recession.

But there are suspicions inside the Guard and out that the reductions are part of an effort to shift the burden of fighting overseas onto the active-duty Army and ease the public outcry over the way that Guard units have been sent on long, repeated combat tours in Iraq.

While the Pentagon has cut the National Guard by about 9,000 soldiers to 358,200 over the past six months or so, the nearly 549,000-strong active-duty Army is under orders to recruit 70,000 new soldiers by the end of September and 22,000 more in the coming fiscal year as the fighting in Iraq winds down and the war in Afghanistan escalates.

Early this year, the National Guard's maximum enlistment age was lowered from 42 to 35. And the minimum score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Test, the exam required by all branches of the military, was raised for the Guard from 31 to 50 out of a possible 100. The Guard also stopped forgiving potential recruits for offenses such as theft, assault, driving under the influence or chronic lawbreaking. And it stopped issuing medical waivers, which allowed recruits to be admitted despite health problems as serious as an extreme food allergy and as minor as a painful bout of acne.

In addition, the Guard's budget for bonus money has been cut. While most recruits since 2006 got \$20,000 just for signing up, now only a precious few are eligible for any bonus money at all.

Col. Mike Jones, the Guard's top recruiting commander, said a higher percentage of applicants are being turned away compared with just a few years ago.

"We literally turn people away every day that want to serve and we can't take them," said Lt. Col. Anthony Abbott, recruiting commander for the Georgia Army



TY WRIGHT/AP

Christopher Runyon of Glouster, Ohio, is among a growing number of people failing to pass tightening entrance requirements to enter the military.

National Guard. "Sometimes you've got to scratch your head and ask why."

It's an about-face from just a few years ago, when the Guard embarked on a recruiting rush with the start of the Iraq war. In 2003, the Guard was at its lowest strength in history with about 330,000 members, down from an all-time high of 457,000 in 1989. In May, the Guard accepted 3,026 recruits, compared with 5,311 in May 2008. But the Guard gave no figures on how many men and women applied.

John Pike, director of the military think tank GlobalSecurity.org, said the government is trying to reduce the outcry over the heavy use of the Guard in the Iraq war and wants to return the force to its original part-time status.

"They used the Guard a lot more than they had planned several times in Iraq just because that was all they had," Pike said. "They're increasing the active component end strength in order to avoid that in the future."

The tougher enlistment standards may have worked all too well. In June and July, the Guard failed to meet its re-

cruiting goals because of what Jones said may have been a combination of the worsening bloodshed in Afghanistan and the higher standards.

Over the past couple of weeks, Jones told Guard commanders in 40 states they are free to reverse some of the restrictions.

"We might have cut a little too deep, too fast," Jones said. "Did we swing too far? Did we cut too much bonus money?"

He said the Guard is "working right now to try to get back the momentum that we had in the early part of the year."

For people like Christopher Runyon, 19, of Glouster, Ohio, it has been one rejection after another. Runyon has failed the aptitude test three times, getting a 45 on his most recent attempt. A few months ago, that would have been a passing grade.

Runyon said he is still in contact with his local recruiter and plans to retake the test.

"I really got down on myself and I really got discouraged," he said. "But I'm still trying, you know?"

VA won't pay benefits to Marine whose injuries came from vaccine

By DAVID GOLDSTEIN
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — It wasn't a bullet or roadside bomb that felled Lance Cpl. Josef Lopez three years ago after nine days in Iraq.

It was an injection into his arm before his unit left the states. While the vaccine isn't mandatory, the military strongly encourages troops to receive it.

The Marine from Springfield, Mo., suffered an adverse reaction to the smallpox vaccine. It left Lopez, then 20, in a coma, unable for a time to breathe on his own and paralyzed for weeks. Now he can walk, but with a limp. He has to wear a urine bag constantly, has short-term memory loss and must swallow 15 pills daily to control leg spasms and other ailments.

"I could have easily died, or not been able to walk because of that," Lopez said. "It destroyed my world. It was pretty traumatic to me."

Yet, Lopez doesn't qualify for a special government benefit of as much as \$100,000 for troops who suffer traumatic injuries.



Lance Cpl. Josef Lopez sits on a bench last month on the campus of Missouri State University where he is a student.

Officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs, which oversees the benefit program, said they're following what the agency has determined to be Congress' intent.

"It's for traumatic injury, not disease; not illness; not preventive medicine," said Stephen Wurtz, deputy assistant director for insurance at the VA. "It has nothing to do with not believing

these people deserve some compensation for their losses."

Sen. Claire McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat and a member of the Armed Services Committee, drafted a bill named after Lopez to widen the program to include vaccine-related injuries.

Lopez's health insurance through the military has covered all his medical expenses. The VA

has paid for his medical costs since he was discharged in June.

What he didn't get were benefits from a program called TSGLI, or Traumatic Service-member Group Life Insurance. Congress created it in 2005 to provide short-term financial help to severely injured servicemembers until their disability benefits could kick in. The compensation is retroactive to injuries suffered since Oct. 1, 2001.

It's intended to cover expenses such as the costs of having a family member temporarily relocate while an injured servicemember receives treatment at a military hospital. Another might be the costs of retrofitting a servicemember's home to accommodate a wheelchair or other medical equipment.

The injuries don't have to be the result of combat. Servicemembers could be eligible because of a car accident on the way to the grocery store. The fee is an additional \$1 each month on top of their regular military life insurance premium.

Lopez seemed to fit the profile. His injuries affected his normal daily activities, one of the cri-

ria to obtain coverage. His family also met another: financial hardship.

His mother, Barbara Lopez, took a leave from her job as a high school secretary to move to Maryland to be with him while he spent six weeks at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda. She also had to give up her second job, a part-time position as a cashier.

They had to build a ramp and widen a door to accommodate his wheelchair at her home in Springfield, where he spent his recovery.

Barbara Lopez said she heard about TSGLI from families of other injured troops at Bethesda. Yet, unlike many of them, whose wounds were obvious, her son's application was turned down. She still can't fathom it.

"In his spinal column, he has quite a bit of permanent scarring," Barbara Lopez said. "He takes medication to help his legs."

He can walk unassisted, but never far, and he can't stand for very long. I kind of feel Joe was out there fighting the same fight they were. He should be just as eligible."

DODDS teacher found dead at his home

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A middle school teacher on Okinawa was found dead in his Yomitan home Aug. 24, Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific officials said Friday.

Perry L. Wilson, 51, a computer technology and business teacher at the Ryukyu and Kadena Middle Schools on Kadena Air Base, was found by housing agents, according to a DODDS release.

"The cause of death is unknown but foul play is not suspected," the release said.

Wilson, a Navy veteran, came to Okinawa in 2003, serving as an educational technologist at E.C. Killin Elementary and Kadena High schools, and as a computer science teacher at Kadena Middle School. He was a native of Edwardsville, Ill.

Navy launches individual augmentee Web site

The U.S. Fleet Forces Command has launched a Web site for sailors deployed as individual augmentees and their families, the Navy announced.

The site, www.ia.navy.mil, provides information on pay and benefits, support networks, emergency services and sailor and family handbooks.

It also offers a selection of videos from sailors who have already completed an augmentee tour. One sailor describes his efforts to teach Afghan children English, while another tells his story of working in a joint environment at the Embassy in Baghdad.

Fitness failures to keep sailors from billets

Reserve sailors who have two physical fitness assessment failures in a three year period will no longer qualify for Individual Augmentee Manpower Management billets, according to changes announced last week to the Navy's physical readiness policy.

Also, all "progress waivers" which were issued to sailors who failed a previous physical readiness test will expire Dec. 31. Those sailors on waivers who have three failures in the most recent four-year period, will be separated, according to a Navy message.

The message said the only exception is if a sailor receives a "readiness waiver," meaning their skill sets are vital to current command mission accomplishment.

Navy announces 2010 re-enlistment bonuses

The Navy has announced its Selective Reenlistment Bonus award levels for fiscal year 2010.

More than 18,000 sailors in 179 "critical skills" will be eligible to receive bonuses of up to \$90,000 in the upcoming fiscal year, according to the Chief of Naval Personnel release.

The Navy suspended the SRB program in June, citing higher retention and funding limits.

Bonuses are determined by enlisted community managers and factor in the previous year's re-enlistment successes, prevailing market conditions, private sector competition and the cost of training and replacing sailors, the release said.

From staff reports

Yokota guests now need insurance

Long-term visitors must provide proof of overseas health coverage

BY CHARLIE REED
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — At least two Americans have recently racked up — and not yet paid — thousands in medical bills at Japanese hospitals while visiting U.S. personnel at Yokota, prompting a new policy that requires long-term guests to have overseas medical insurance.

Starting Sept. 15, any visitor seeking a base pass for more than 24 hours must show proof of such insurance if not covered by the military's Tricare insurance plan or a Japanese policy, according to the order issued Tuesday by Col. J. Marcus Hicks, 374th Airlift Wing commander.

"It strains the good relationship we've built with the (Japanese) hospitals" where U.S. personnel and their dependents turn for treatment not offered at Yokota, said base spokesman Maj. Christopher Watt.

It's not a new problem, Watt said, and in most cases visitors who are injured or fall seriously ill while in Japan are unaware their health insurance does not cover them overseas.

The collective effect has chipped away at the medical partnership over the years, he said.

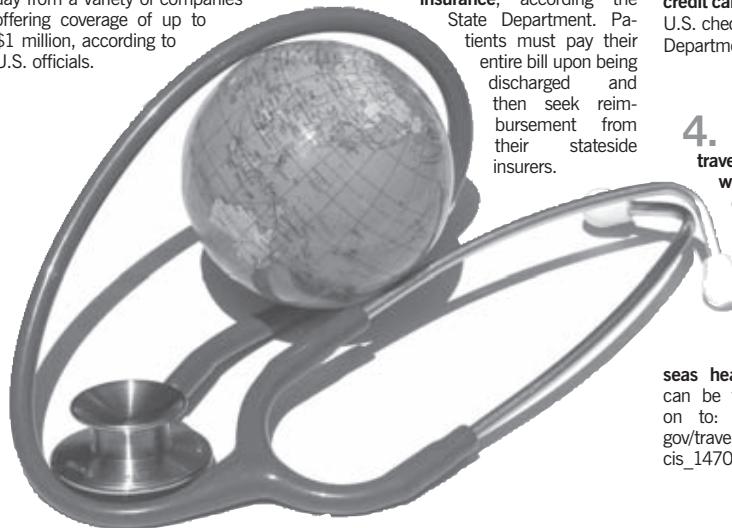
"It may get to the point where we lose service," he said. The base has sent letters to the patients and their hosts urging them to resolve the outstanding bills.

Tricare — which refers thousands of troops and civilians to Japanese facilities for treatment not offered by the military — shares the concern, said Lora Sanders-Vannoy, a Tricare spokeswoman at Yokosuka Naval Base.

Japanese hospitals would not refuse treatment in emergency situations that bases are unequipped to handle, she said. But if the problem continues, they might pull back services now readily available to Americans

Getting insured overseas

1. Overseas health insurance can be bought for as little as \$5 per day from a variety of companies offering coverage of up to \$1 million, according to U.S. officials.



2. Almost no health care providers in Japan accept U.S.-based health insurance, according to the State Department. Patients must pay their entire bill upon being discharged and then seek reimbursement from their stateside insurers.

3. Most small clinics and some large hospitals do not accept credit cards, and no facility accepts U.S. checks, according to the State Department.

4. Officials urge Americans travelling abroad to check with their health insurance companies about overseas coverage and to buy an additional policy if necessary.

5. A list of overseas health insurance providers can be found by logging on to: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1470.html#companies 

— Charlie Reed

connected to the military, she said.

"The possibility is that they just won't make appointments for us when we call," said Sanders-Vannoy, who said she forwarded the Yokota policy to Navy officials for review.

"If we could treat them, we would and then bill them," she said. But once a visitor not covered by Tricare is treated off-base, "we legally can't fund those bills."

U.S. Army Japan officials, however, said they would likely fund emergency off-base care for uninsured visitors of U.S. military personnel to prevent hospitals from having to assume the financial burden.

"If it's life, limb or eyesight on the line, the Army pays for it and we worry about payment process

later," said USARJ spokesman Maj. James Crawford.

The command has a formal partnership with a dozen hospitals near its headquarters at Camp Zama and sends a liaison team to accompany patients referred to those sites.

"We want to keep a good relationship with these hospitals," Crawford said.

Most Japanese have social or national health care insurance that covers 70 percent of their bills. Unlike U.S. hospitals, Japanese medical facilities require payment in full when patients are discharged.

Disaster Medical Center in Tachikawa, where at least one of the most recent patients from Yokota was transferred, has required Americans who cannot pay in full to sign a "debt

acknowledgement statement," hospital administrator Satoshi Koda said Friday.

He said the hospital is in the process of negotiating payments or collecting installments from three American patients who have since returned to the United States. Yokota officials said at least one American associated with Yokota personnel was treated at Disaster Medical Center.

"We are troubled since when they return [to the U.S.], it takes time to track them," Koda said.

U.S. Forces Japan said it has no plans to adopt the new Yokota policy for all installations in Japan, instead leaving it up to individual base commanders.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this story. E-mail Charlie Reed at: reedc@pstripes.osd.mil

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IN THE WORLD



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

South Korean conservative activists burn portraits Friday of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and North Korean flags during a rally against North Korea's nuclear program in Seoul. The letters read "Nuclear abolition." North Korea said Friday it is on the threshold of mastering a new way of building atomic bombs — uranium enrichment — and that it is continuing to weaponize plutonium for the same purpose.

N. Korea: Enrichment of uranium nearly complete

Process would provide second way of making nukes

By JAE-SOON CHANG
The Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea said Friday it is on the threshold of mastering a new way of building atomic bombs, pressuring the United States to agree to direct negotiations or see the communist regime become a greater nuclear risk.

Pyongyang's claim to have succeeded in experimental uranium enrichment — an easier way to make nuclear weapons — raises concerns that North Korea may add uranium-based weapons to enlarge its stockpile of atomic bombs made from plutonium.

North Korea also said it is continuing to weaponize plutonium.

The tough talk came as Washington showed no signs of easing pressure on North Korea despite its recent series of conciliatory gestures, including releasing two detained American journalists and reportedly inviting top U.S. envoys to Pyongyang.

"We are prepared for both dialogue and sanctions," the North said in a letter to the U.N. Security Council carried Friday by its official Korean Central News Agency. If the Security Council puts "sanctions first before dialogue, we would respond with bolstering our nuclear deterrence first before we meet them in a dialogue," it said.

The Security Council slapped tough sanctions on North Korea for conducting an underground nuclear test in May.

The North said it does not oppose the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, but warned it would be left with no choice but to take "yet stronger self-defensive countermeasures" if the standoff continues. It did not elaborate on possible countermeasures.

Analysts said the North appears to be trying to add urgency to the standoff to get Washington into one-on-one talks.

"I think this is a 'let's-have-direct talks' message," said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean Studies. "The North is saying that the more delayed U.S.-North Korea talks are, the greater its nuclear capabilities will become."

Washington's special envoy on North Korea, Stephen Bosworth, is in the region for discussions with China, South Korea and Japan over how to bring Pyongyang back to six-nation talks that the North has boycotted since earlier this year.

South Korean media reported late last month the North invited Bosworth and chief U.S. nuclear negotiator Sung Kim to visit Pyongyang for their first nuclear talks since President Barack Obama took

office. Washington has said it has no plan to send them.

Bosworth said Friday any nuclear development in North Korea was a matter of concern.

"We confirm the necessity to maintain a coordinated position and the need for a complete de-nuclearization of the Korean peninsula," he said in Beijing. He also said the U.S. is willing to have direct talks with Pyongyang, but only within the framework of the six-nation disarmament talks.

North Korea has long sought direct negotiations with Washington. It says it needs nuclear weapons to protect itself against a threat from the U.S., which has 28,500 troops based in South Korea. North and South Korea technically remain at war because their three-year Korean War ended in 1953 with a truce, not a peace treaty.

The U.S. had long suspected the North also had a covert uranium enrichment program, which would give it a second source of nuclear material. North Korea for years denied the claim but revealed in June it was prepared to start enriching uranium.

Verifying the North's claim on uranium enrichment won't be easy, South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Won Tae-jae said, adding it could be a negotiating tactic.

Uranium can be enriched in relatively inconspicuous underground factories and could provide North Korea with an easier way to build nuclear bombs, experts say. Uranium-based bombs may also work without requiring test explosions like the two carried out by North Korea last May and in 2006 for plutonium-based weapons.

The North's announcement suggests the regime has made progress in research and development in its uranium program in a small pilot factory, said Lee Choon-geun of South Korea's state-funded Science and Technology Policy Institute. Still, he said it could take at least five years to build a uranium-based bomb.

The U.S., China, Japan, Russia and South Korea have tried for years to persuade North Korea to dismantle its plutonium-based nuclear program — which experts say has yielded enough weaponized plutonium for at least half a dozen bombs — in exchange for much-needed aid.

After hashing out a 2007 disarmament-for-aid deal, North Korea walked away from those talks earlier this year in anger over the rising international outcry over a rocket launch widely condemned as a disguised test of its long-range missile technology.

Iran: U.S. forged evidence on nukes

By WILLIAM J. KOLE
The Associated Press

VIENNA — Iran accused the United States on Friday of using "forged documents" and relying on subterfuge to build its case that Tehran is trying to build a nuclear weapon, according to a confidential letter obtained by The Associated Press.

The eight-page letter — written by Iran's chief envoy to the U.N. nuclear agency in Vienna — denounces

Washington's allegations against the Islamic Republic as "fabricated, baseless and false." It also lashes out at Britain and France for "ill will and political motivation."

Iranian envoy Ali Asghar Soltanieh sent the letter to Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, whose 35-nation board will take a hard new look at Iran's nuclear program next week.

Iran insists its nuclear activities are peaceful and geared solely toward generating electricity. The U.S. and key allies contend the Islamic Republic is covertly trying to build an atomic bomb.

Tehran has bristled at the agency's latest report, which accuses Iran of defiantly continuing to enrich uranium and refusing to clear up lingering questions about possible military dimensions to its nuclear program.

In the letter, Soltanieh insists that Iran has demonstrated "the full commitment of my country to its obligations" under an IAEA nuclear safeguards agreement.

But it takes sharp aim at Washington for giving the U.N. nuclear watchdog unspecified intelligence

and other evidence.

"By interfering in the work of the IAEA and exerting various political pressures, the government of the United States attempted to spoil the cooperative spirit between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the IAEA," the letter reads.

"The government of the United States has not handed over original documents to the agency since it does not in fact have any authenticated document and all it has are forged documents," Soltanieh said.

"The agency didn't deliver any original documents to Iran and none of the documents and materials that were shown to Iran have authenticity and all proved to be fabricated, baseless allegations and false attributions to Iran," he added.

"Therefore, this subject must be closed."

U.S. officials were not immediately available for comment late Friday.

The nuclear agency's latest assessment did acknowledge that Iran has been producing nuclear fuel at a slower rate and has allowed U.N. inspectors broader access to its main nuclear complex in the southern city of Natanz and to a reactor in Arak.

But it cautions that there are "a number of outstanding issues which give rise to concerns and which need to be clarified to exclude the existence of possible military dimensions."

The report, to be examined this week, has raised the specter of harsher international sanctions against Iran for not answering lingering questions about its nuclear activities.

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China blames separatists in syringe attacks

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
The Associated Press

URUMQI, China — China's police chief accused ethnic Muslim separatists of staging a bizarre series of hypodermic needle stabbings that sent thousands of Chinese into the streets in angry protests for a second day Friday to demand increased security in this western city.

Police used tear gas and public appeals to break up crowds of Chinese marching on government offices and calling on authorities to punish people awaiting trial for communal violence that left 197 people dead in early July in Urumqi.

The police response was more forceful than on Thursday, the first day of protests by members of the Han Chinese majority unnerved by the recent spate of syringe stabbings on dozens of

people.

Deputy Mayor Zhang Hong said that five people were killed and 14 wounded during the most recent protests. He said they died Thursday.

Public Security Minister Meng Jianzhu, who arrived in Urumqi to direct the police action, said the same ethnic separatists Beijing says were behind the rioting that started July 5 also orchestrated the needle attacks.

"The needle stabbing incident is a continuation of the '7-5' incident, and it's plotted by unlawful elements and instigated by ethnic separatist forces," Meng said in comments broadcast on nationwide television.

"Their purpose is to damage ethnic unity."

Meng provided no evidence to back up his charges, nor has the government substantiated accusations that separatists incited July's violence.



Paramilitary policemen in riot suits stand guard Friday at a blocked road in Urumqi, in western China's Xinjiang region. Police pushed back a crowd voicing anger over public security that was trying to march on Communist Party offices in Urumqi.

By most accounts, the riot started after police confronted protesters from the Muslim Uighur ethnic group, who then attacked Han Chinese.

But the Xinjiang region, where Urumqi is located, has for decades faced a simmering sepa-

ratist movement by Uighurs, a largely Muslim ethnic group.

Meng's comments were the first time authorities suggested Uighur militants were involved in the stabbings that had fed rumors and fear in the city for days but that were first publicly reported

Wednesday.

Meng's dispatch to Urumqi was a measure of Chinese leaders' anxieties that order was slipping in the often tense city of 2.5 million and that violence between Hans and Uighurs could flare anew.

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WEEK DAY 9:30 A.M. - 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. SUNDAY CLOSED

* Office closed on 9/19, 9/20, 9/21 *

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Gang member eyed in filmmaker's death

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — Christian Poveda spent years documenting El Salvador's Mara 18 street gang, practically living among its members while filming initiations, drug use, tattoo sessions and funerals.

Poveda
Authorities believe Poveda, 53, fell victim to the same brutal violence he portrayed in his documentary "La Vida Loca," after the French filmmaker was found shot in the head in a car outside the capital, San Salvador.

Police arrested a purported gang member suspected of involvement in the killing on Thursday.

U.S. cuts \$32 million in aid to Honduras

CARACAS, Venezuela — The Obama administration Thursday ratcheted up the pressure on Honduras' coup-installed government to step down by cutting all non-humanitarian aid to the poor Central American country.

The U.S. announcement means a cutoff of some \$32 million in aid planned for Honduras. It was accompanied by a decision to revoke visas for senior officials involved with the June 28 coup that hustled President Manuel Zelaya out of the country in his pajamas.

But the administration stopped short of tougher measures that would force de facto President Roberto Micheletti to step aside and allow the reinstatement of Zelaya for the final 140 days of his term.

S. Africa army chief condemns capital clash

PRETORIA, South Africa — A recent clash between about 1,000 soldiers and police in the heart of South Africa's capital does not signify wider unrest in the military's ranks, the commander of the army said Friday, vowing that he won't tolerate a lack of discipline.

In a rare news conference, Lt. Gen. Solly Shoke said the Aug. 26 protest about pay and conditions that escalated into running battles with police bordered "on mutiny." The soldiers, calling for better pay, had converged on the lawns of the Union Buildings.

Dutch: Man acted alone in targeting royal family

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — An unemployed recluse who attempted to slam his car into an open-topped bus carrying Queen Beatrix was acting alone and targeting the royal family, police said Friday.

Karst Tates killed seven bystanders and himself when he plowed through layers of spectators waiting to catch a glimpse of the royal family on April 30.

From The Associated Press

Aides: Israel OKs more West Bank homes

BY MATTI FRIEDMAN
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Aides to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would approve hundreds of new housing units in West Bank settlements before considering a temporary freeze in construction, in an apparent snub to Washington's public demand for a total halt.

The aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said any freeze would not encompass

building the new units and finishing some 2,500 others currently under construction. Netanyahu faces internal opposition since his coalition is dominated by hard-liners opposed to any freeze.

The U.S. has set a high public bar for a freeze, saying repeatedly that all settlement activity on lands the Palestinians claim for a future state must stop, without exception. However, Israel appeared to gain some wiggle room in recent weeks as the sides discussed the details of a would-be settlement

freeze.

It was unclear if Washington had prior knowledge of the Israeli announcement, which had the potential to undermine the Obama administration's credibility in the Arab world.

The Palestinians, however, say no freeze, no talks.

"I think the only thing that will be suspended by this announcement is the peace process," senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said of the Israeli remarks.

Indonesia quake toll rises to 64

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesian rescue workers pulled several bodies from the rubble of a giant landslide Friday, lifting the death toll from a powerful earthquake to 64. Dozens more people were still missing, feared dead.

Hopes of finding survivors were fading two days after the quake, officials said.

The number of houses destroyed or damaged in Wednesday's magnitude 7.0 tremor, which was centered off the southern coast of the main island of Java, jumped to more than 87,000, Disaster Management Agency spokesman Priyadi Kardono said.

About 28,000 people need shelter, he said. Aid agencies were distributing tents, blankets and basic provisions, but some rural areas were difficult to reach.

Two dozen bodies had been recovered from Cikangkareng village, in the badly hit district of Cianjur, where 37 people were still missing after 10 houses and a mosque were buried under tons of rock and mud. "Their parents are still waiting at the scene, hoping we will find the bodies," rescue worker Agus Sobari said.

Victims have been found under collapsed houses and debris in across West Java province. More than 400 people were injured and 125 people were hospitalized with broken bones and cuts. On Friday, authorities deployed hundreds of soldiers and policemen, along with sniffer dogs, to help the search for survivors.

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ACHMAD IBRAHIM/AP

Residents clean up rubble Friday at a house destroyed by an earthquake in Pengalengan, West Java, Indonesia. Dozens of people were still missing after a strong earthquake rocked southern Indonesia on Wednesday, unleashing mudslides.

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IN THE STATES



L.M. OTERO/AP

Firefighters pull a hose into position in the La Crescenta section of Glendale, Calif., on Tuesday.

Fire now a homicide case

Calif. blaze that killed two firefighters declared arson

BY RAQUEL MARIA DILLON
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Fire bosses declared progress early Friday in taming the 232-square-mile arson fire north of Los Angeles that has led to a homicide investigation into the deaths of two firefighters.

Flames had died down early Friday and the blaze, which was 42 percent surrounded, was "pretty quiet," fire spokesman John Huschke said.

Firefighters were using bulldozers to clear a containment line around the fire, which destroyed 64 homes and burned three people.

The fire has charred 148,258 acres of the Angeles National Forest, where many city residents escape to nature during the summer.

Investigators determined on Thursday that the 11-day-old blaze was arson, and Los Angeles County sheriff's homicide detectives were investigating.

Two firefighters were killed Sunday when their truck plunged

800 feet down a steep mountain road.

Incendiary material was found along Angeles Crest Highway, the Los Angeles Times reported Friday, citing an unidentified source close to the investigation. The massive blaze is thought to have started in the area.

Sheriff Lee Baca said details were being withheld to avoid jeopardizing the hunt for the arsonist.

County Deputy Fire Chief Mike Bryant said he was glad investigators were making progress in the probe, but "it doesn't mend my broken heart."

"Those were two great men that died," he said. "We've got to put this fire out so no one else gets hurt."

"When you find out it is intentionally set, it's hard to take. A death is a death, but it's so senseless when it's deliberately set," Huschke said.

A tribute for the two fallen firefighters was held before dawn Friday at the camp. Hundreds of firefighters took off their caps and bowed their heads.

as the men were remembered with speeches and a moment of silence.

Elsewhere, a 25-acre wildfire broke out just after midnight about 60 miles southeast in Orange County in the Cleveland National Forest, county fire Capt. Greg McKeown said. No homes were threatened.

On Thursday, a six-member firefighting crew mopping up in Angeles National Forest was overcome by fumes, apparently from the smoldering remains of a makeshift methamphetamine lab. Huschke said a hazardous materials squad was called in and one firefighter was hospitalized overnight.

Hand crews and water-dropping helicopters had almost contained the fire's western flank in rugged canyons, but 65 miles of fire line have yet to be cut, U.S. Forest Service Incident Commander Mike Dietrich said.

Most wildfires are caused by human activity. Other wildfire causes are lightning and volcanoes.

Senator: More funding needed to stem fire risk

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sen. Barbara Boxer on Thursday urged the U.S. Forest Service to dedicate more money to reduce wildfire danger in high-risk areas before another blaze threatens homes and lives.

The massive wildfire burning north of Los Angeles is being fueled by dry, overgrown brush, and similar conditions exist across the Southwest.

The Forest Service uses machines and hand crews to trim or thin brush, or sometimes starts intentional fires known as prescribed burns, to clear overgrown areas and reduce fire risk. The money available to cut back or clear fire-prone vegetation needs to go "where the threat to communities is greatest," Boxer said.

"Too often, dead or dying trees and chaparral, in many cases where fire has not occurred for decades, becomes the fuel for



Boxer

fires that cannot be controlled," she wrote in a letter to the Agriculture Department, which oversees the Forest Service.

The California Democrat said the agency must use its limited funds in highly threatened areas "before a firestorm occurs."

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said in a statement Thursday that his agency is committed to finding the best ways to prevent and fight wildfires. But he did not address Boxer's proposal to direct more money to high-risk areas.

"We are committed to working with members of Congress, including Sen. Boxer, and our partners at other levels of government, to develop effective techniques for preventing and fighting these destructive fires in the future," he said.

The senator's letter was released a day after The Associated Press reported that federal authorities failed to complete plans earlier this year to burn away highly flammable brush in the Angeles National Forest, where the wildfire is burning on the edge of the nation's second-largest city.

The current fire is the largest in the recorded history of the Angeles National Forest.

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DONNA McWILLIAM/AP

Thomas McGowan, a DNA exoneree released last year after nearly 23 years in prison, talks to the media in Garland, Texas. McGowan will receive \$1.8 million in compensation from Texas.

DNA exonerees prosper after being freed

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Thomas McGowan's journey from prison to prosperity is about to culminate in \$1.8 million, and he knows just how to spend it: on a house with three bedrooms, stainless steel kitchen appliances and a washer and dryer. "I'll let my girlfriend pick out the rest," said McGowan, who was exonerated last year based on DNA evidence after spending nearly 23 years in prison for rape and robbery.

He and other exonerees in Texas, which leads the nation in freeing the wrongly convicted, soon will become instant millionaires under a state law that took effect last week. Exonerees will get \$80,000 for each year they spent behind bars. The compensation also includes lifetime annuity payments that for most of the wrongly convicted are worth between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year — making it by far the nation's most generous package.

"I'm nervous and excited," said McGowan, 50. "It's something I never had, this amount of money."

His payday for his imprisonment — a time he described as "a nightmare," "hell" and "slavery" — should come by mid-November after the state's 45-day processing period. Exonerees also receive an array of social services, including job training, tuition credits and access to medical and dental treatment. Though 27 other states have some form of compensation law for the wrongly convicted, none comes close to offering the social services and money Texas provides.

The annuity payments are especially popular among exonerees, who acknowledge their lack of experience in managing personal finances. A social worker who meets with the exonerees

is setting them up with financial advisers and has led discussions alerting them to swindlers.

Charles Chatman, wrongly convicted of rape, said the money will allow him peace of mind after more than 26 years in prison.

"It will bring me some independence," he said. "Other people have had a lot of control over my life."

Chatman and other exonerees already have begun rebuilding their lives. Several plan to start businesses, saying they don't mind working but want to be their own bosses. Others, such as McGowan, don't intend to work and hope to make their money last a lifetime.

Some exonerees have gotten

married and another is about to. Chatman became a first-time father at 49.

"That's something I never thought I'd be able to do," he said. "No amount of money can replace the time we've lost."

The drumbeat of DNA exonerations caused lawmakers this year to increase the compensation for the wrongly convicted, which had been \$50,000 for each year of prison.

Besides the lump sum and the monthly annuity payments, the bill includes 120 hours of paid tuition at a public college. It also gives exonerees an additional \$25,000 for each year they spent on parole or as registered sex offenders.

Ex-Texas death row inmate is released

DALLAS — An inmate once on death row in Texas was a free man Thursday, nine months after his conviction was overturned in the 1985 bombing deaths of three people on Thanksgiving.

The Texas attorney general's office dropped the charges against Michael Roy Toney, 43, on Wednesday and that night Toney was released from the Tarrant County Jail in Fort Worth, officials said.

His release came a day before the attorney general had to

declare whether the state would again seek the death penalty.

State prosecutor Adrienne McFarland said in a dismissal motion that there was not enough time to complete an independent investigation before the Thursday deadline.

The state can refile charges against Toney in the killings if the investigation warrants it.

In a statement released Thursday through his attorney, Toney said, "I have said all along that I was innocent of these charges and I know that when the Attorney General reviews the evidence, it will show that I am indeed innocent."

From The Associated Press

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TIM RAND/AP

A Jericho, Ark., police car sits on the Crittenden County Sheriff's Department parking lot Tuesday in West Memphis, Ark.

Town roils after shooting over traffic ticket

BY JON GAMBRELL

The Associated Press

JERICHO, Ark. — It was just too much, having to return to court twice on the same day to contest yet another traffic ticket, and Fire Chief Don Payne didn't hesitate to tell the judge what he thought of the police and their speed traps.

The response from cops? They shot him. Right there in court.

Payne ended up in the hospital, but his shooting last month brought to a boil simmering tensions between residents of this tiny former cotton city and their police force. Drivers quickly learn to slow to a crawl along the gravel roads and the two-lane highway that run through Jericho, but they say sometimes that isn't enough to fend off the city ticketing machine.

"You can't even get them to answer a call because normally they're writing tickets," said Thomas Martin, chief investigator for the Crittenden County Sheriff's Department. "They're not providing a service to the citizens."

Now the police chief has disbanded his

force "until things calm down," a judge has voided all outstanding police-issued citations and sheriff's deputies are asking where all the money from the tickets went. With 174 residents, the city can keep seven police officers on its rolls but missed payments on police and fire department vehicles and saw its last business close its doors a few weeks ago.

"You can't even buy a loaf of bread, but we've got seven police officers," said former resident Larry Harris, who left town because he said the police harassment became unbearable.

Police often camped out in the department's two cruisers along the highway that runs through town, waiting for drivers who failed to slow down when they reached the 45 mph zone ringing Jericho. Residents say the ticketing got out of hand.

"When I first moved out here, they wrote me a ticket for going 58 mph in my driveway," 75-year-old retiree Albert Beebe said.

The frequent ticketing apparently led to the vandalism of the cruisers, and

the department took to parking the cars overnight at the sheriff's department eight miles away.

It was anger over traffic tickets that brought Payne to city hall last month, said his lawyer, Randy Fishman. After Payne failed to get a traffic ticket dismissed on Aug. 27, police gave Payne or his son another ticket that day. Payne, 39, returned to court to vent his anger to Judge Tonya Alexander, Fishman said.

It's unclear exactly what happened next, but Martin said an argument between Payne and the seven police officers who attended the hearing apparently escalated to a scuffle, ending when an officer shot Payne from behind.

Doctors in Memphis, Tenn., removed a .40-caliber bullet from Payne's hip bone, Martin said. Another officer suffered a grazing wound to his finger from the bullet.

Martin declined to name the officer who shot Payne. It's unclear if the officer has been disciplined.

Prosecutor Lindsey Fairley said Thurs-

day that he didn't plan to file any felony charges against the officer or Payne. Fairley, reached at his home, said Payne could face a misdemeanor charge stemming from the scuffle, but that would be up to the city's judge. He said he didn't remember the name of the officer who fired the shot.

Alexander, the judge, has voided all the tickets written by the department both inside the city and others written outside of its jurisdiction — citations that the department apparently had no power to write. Alexander, who works as a lawyer in West Memphis, resigned as Jericho's judge in the aftermath of the shooting, Fairley said. She did not return calls for comment.

Meanwhile, sheriff's deputies want to know where the money from the traffic fines went. Martin said that it appeared the \$150 tickets weren't enough to protect the city's finances. Sheriff's deputies once had to repossess one of the town's police cruisers for failure to pay on a lease, and the state Forestry Commission recently repossessed one of the city's firetrucks because of nonpayment.

USC researchers: Immigration judges too stressed, burnt out

BY HOWARD MINTZ

San Jose Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif. — On any given day, Immigration Judge Dana Leigh Marks can find herself listening to a wrenching tale of an immigrant seeking asylum, fearing everything from torture to death if returned to his or her homeland. Or she could be deciding the fate of one of thousands of immigrants who find themselves facing deportation each year, some of whom have been in the United States for years, going to school, working and raising families.

In a cramped corner office in San Francisco's financial district,

the case files stacked on Marks' desk show the sheer volume of her task. The roughly 215 immigration judges in the country last year decided on average more than 1,600 cases, dwarfing the workload of a full-time federal judge, who might have about 350 cases on their docket at a time.

For Marks and other immigration judges around the country, it appears all those stories and case files are starting to take their toll. In a study released this summer by University of California-San Francisco researchers, immigration judges, it turns out, are as stressed out and burned out as emergency room doctors and prison wardens. And the study

found female immigration judges are far more stressed than their male counterparts.

One judge told researchers they have to "grovel like mangy street dogs" to convince top immigration officials they need more time to deal with the crushing caseloads. Another reported a "knot in my stomach" deciding asylum cases.

The study does not entirely surprise Marks, president of the National Association of Immigration Judges. She's now using the findings to push for long-sought reforms to the system, including a proposal for the immigration courts to break from Justice Department oversight.

"The depth and the severity is what was surprising," Marks said of the study. "It's gotten a lot worse a lot faster."

Immigration courts have come under closer scrutiny in recent years as caseloads exploded across the country. The number of immigration cases jumped from more than 282,000 in 1998 to a projected 385,000 this year, with only a modest increase in the number of immigration judges. Northern California's immigration judges are based in San Francisco.

Federal appeals courts, which often review the work of the immigration courts, have grown increasingly frustrated with some

of the justice dispensed. A San Jose Mercury News review three years ago found a San Francisco-based federal appeals court was regularly overturning the immigration courts in the most important immigration matters it decided.

A spokeswoman of the Executive Office of Immigration Review, which runs the immigration court system for the Justice Department, said officials are aware of the recent study and working to address its findings.

Elaine Komis, the EOIR spokeswoman, said 19 new judges are being hired this year, and the department is asking for 28 more judges in 2010.

Some schools block Obama speech

Critics in GOP claim president pushing agenda

BY LIBBY QUAID
AND LINDA STEWART BALL
The Associated Press

DALLAS — When kids all across the country return to school Tuesday, some will see a welcoming message from President Barack Obama and some won't.

Obama's planned address to students has touched off yet another confrontation with Republican critics, who have battered the White House over health care and now accuse the president of foisting a political agenda on children.

The president will speak directly to students Tuesday about the need to work hard and stay in school. His address will be shown live on the White House Web site and on C-SPAN at noon, a time when classrooms across the country will be able to tune in.

Schools don't have to show it. But districts across the country have been inundated with phone calls from parents and are struggling to address the controversy that broke out after Education Secretary Arne Duncan sent a letter to principals urging schools to tune in.

Districts in states including

School speech



The speech: The president plans to speak to schoolchildren across the U.S. Tuesday about the importance of hard work and staying in school.

The opposition: Critics urging schools to boycott the address say Obama will use the opportunity to promote his political agenda and is overstepping the boundaries of federal involvement in schools. The White House says the speech is not politically motivated and will release it early so parents can read it.

Reaction: Districts in states including Texas, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Virginia and Wisconsin have decided not to show the speech to students. Others are still thinking it over or are letting parents have their kids opt out.



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

President Barack Obama walks through the columns of the West Wing colonnade of the White House on Tuesday. Some school districts will not show a planned speech by Obama on the importance of staying in school or will let kids opt out of watching it.

Texas, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Virginia and Wisconsin have decided not to show the speech to students. Others are still thinking it over or are letting parents have their kids opt out.

Some conservatives, driven by radio pundits and bloggers, are urging schools and parents to boycott the address. They say Obama is using the opportunity

to promote a political agenda and is overstepping the boundaries of federal involvement in schools.

"As far as I am concerned, this is not civics education — it gives the appearance of creating a cult of personality," said Oklahoma Republican state Sen. Steve Russell. "This is something you'd expect to see in North Korea or in Saddam Hussein's Iraq."

"I think it's really unfortunate that politics has been brought into this," White House deputy policy director Heather Higginbottom said.

"It's simply a plea to students to really take their learning seriously. Find out what they're good at. Set goals. And take the school year seriously."

Protester has part of finger bitten off at health rally

BY SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One man bit off part of another man's finger when a health care reform demonstration turned violent.

William Rice said doctors did not reattach the bitten-off part of his left pinky after he got in the middle of a Southern California rally Wednesday night that he said was "very scary."

"I didn't go out to demonstrate my beliefs; I happened to be driving by and I stopped to ask people what their purpose was," Rice, 65, said in a telephone interview Thursday. "I had no signs; I was not part of the demonstration."

About 100 demonstrators in favor of health care reform had gathered on a Thousand Oaks street corner for an event organized by MoveOn.org. About 25 gathered across the street.

Rice declined to say Thursday which side of the debate he falls on.

The biter fled before authorities arrived. He could face felony mayhem charges.

There are conflicting accounts of who started the fight, Ventura County sheriff's spokesman Eric Buschow said. "There's a question about blurring the line between self-defense and who the primary aggressor was," he said.

Kidnapping spotlights migration of sex offenders to small towns

BY EVELYN NIEVES
AND SUDHIN THANAWALA
The Associated Press

ANTIOCH, Calif. — At least three other registered sex offenders live within a block or two of the Northern California home where Phillip Garrido allegedly imprisoned Jaycee Lee Dugard for nearly two decades.

More than 100 registered sex offenders in all share his ZIP code in the hard-scrabble, working-class neighborhood on the outskirts of this town about 40 miles northeast of San Francisco.

The kidnapping case has put a spotlight on the concentration of sex offenders and heightened concerns that laws to control some of the nation's roughly 686,000 reg-

istered sex offenders are pushing them to smaller communities such as Antioch.

"We've got plenty of 'em around here," said Charles Mickelson, who lives a block from Garrido, next door to two other registered sex offenders.

Criminal justice experts say relatively isolated communities with low housing prices tend to attract sex offenders who are living on thin budgets and looking to keep a low profile.

"They want to operate under the radar, so that's another reason they move out there," said Joan Petersilia, co-director of Stanford University's Criminal Justice Center.

Smaller, less dense communities also tend to have more sex offenders because it's easier for them to comply with laws

in many states that prohibit sex offenders from getting too close to schools, parks and other places where children gather.

Before the Garrido case made news around the world and TV trucks showed up in the neighborhood, residents knew from a state Web site of sex offenders and word of mouth that Garrido was one of many in their midst.

All 50 states have such databases. In California alone, under Megan's Law, information about the crimes and whereabouts of more than 67,000 sex offenders is accessible through the state attorney general's Web site. That information includes the full addresses of about half the group.

While such sites help alert residents, criminal justice experts say the listings may also be contributing to the movement

of sex offenders to less populated areas as they search for places where community scrutiny may not be as great.

In addition to the Dugard kidnapping, another allegation of sexual abuse emerged Thursday against Garrido when Antioch police disclosed he was arrested nearly 40 years ago on suspicion of drugging and raping a 14-year-old girl.

Garrido was accused of sexually assaulting the girl at an Antioch motel in April 1972 after giving her barbiturates, Antioch police Lt. Leonard Orman said.

Garrido was set to be prosecuted in the case but the charges were dropped when the girl refused to testify, Orman said.

Details on the case were spotty because so much time had passed.

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 THE NEW SANNO

Jackson finally laid to rest at private funeral

The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Calif. — Paris Jackson wept as she stepped into the mausoleum where her father, Michael, was to be entombed. Katherine Jackson, overcome by sorrow, turned back when she was faced with her son's final resting place.

On a sultry Thursday evening, amid a sea of white flowers and with a jeweled crown placed atop his casket by his children, the singer was given an intimate, private version of the lavish public memorial held shortly after his death in June.

Gladys Knight performed the hymn "Our Father (The Lord's Prayer)" and moved many to tears, according to one guest who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the day.

When it was over, many of the 200 mourners hugged each other. Among them were Elizabeth Taylor, Jackson's ex-wife Lisa Marie Presley, Barry Bonds and Macaulay Culkin.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, who gave a eulogy at the public event and at Thursday's service, also extolled Knight's earlier performance of



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HARRISON FUNK, THE JACKSON FAMILY/AP

Above: Katherine and Joseph Jackson attend Michael Jackson's funeral Thursday at Glendale Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, Calif.

Left: Jackson's siblings — from left, Janet, Randy, Jackie, Tito, Jermaine and Marlon — also attended, as did sisters Debbie and LaToya.

"His Eye is on the Sparrow."

"Gladys Knight sang her heart out. Now we prepare to lay him to rest," Sharpton posted on his Twitter account during the service that was held outside and then within the marble mausoleum.

The mourners followed the crowned, lusly flower-draped casket as Jackson's five brothers

— each wearing a bright red tie and a single crystal-studded glove — carried it into the mausoleum. Paris, 11, cried as the group entered the building and was comforted by her aunt, LaToya.

Paris and brothers Prince Michael, 12, and Prince Michael II, 7, known as Blanket, began the service by placing the crown on

their father's golden casket. They were composed through most of the hour-and-a-half ceremony.

As it ended, Katherine Jackson appeared extremely weary and had to be helped to her car, according to the guest. Earlier, she had a difficult time going into the mausoleum; she was overcome,

turned back, and it wasn't clear if she went in at all, the guest said.

About 250 seats were arranged for mourners over artificial turf laid roadside at the mausoleum. There were two portraits of a youthful, vibrant Jackson mounted next to the casket.

Police said all went smoothly and there were no arrests.



TV Listing

Central Europe	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12:00 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	-	-
12:30 AM	Army Newswatch	This Week in the Pentagon	FNG	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	DownRange	Grill Sergeants, The
01:00 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
01:30 AM	DownRange	Around the Services	This Week in the Pentagon				
02:00 AM	-	Recon Revisited	FNG	Recon Revisited	Recon Revisited	Recon Revisited	USARJ This Week
02:30 AM	-	State Department Daily Briefing	Grill Sergeants, The	FNG			
03:00 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
03:30 AM	FNG	AFN Europe Report	Battleground				
03:45 AM	-	Pacific Report	-				
04:00 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	Grill Sergeants, The	FNG	FNG	Recon Revisited
04:30 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
05:00 AM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
05:30 AM	Exchange On Air	Around the Services	Today's Air Force				
06:00 AM	All Hands TV	Special Event Encore	FNG				
06:30 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	Army Newswatch
07:00 AM	Recon Revisited	FNG	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report
07:15 AM	-	Pacific Report	Pacific Report				
07:30 AM	American Veteran, The	Recon	Exchange On Air	Recon	Balad and Beyond	Recon Revisited	Grill Sergeants, The
08:00 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
08:30 AM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
09:00 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	Tour of Duty	Today's Air Force	American Veteran, The	Grill Sergeants, The	Army Newswatch	Fit Hood On Track
09:30 AM	Army Newswatch	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	Recon Revisited	FNG	Exchange On Air	This Week in the Pentagon
10:00 AM	Grill Sergeants, The	VA News	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Recon
10:15 AM	-	Pacific Report	-	-	-	-	-
10:30 AM	USARJ This Week	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	Recon Revisited
11:00 AM	Recon	Exchange On Air	This Week in the Pentagon	Ft Hood On Track	This Week in the Pentagon	Today's Air Force	Army Newswatch
11:30 AM	FNG	Army Newswatch	FNG	Today's Air Force	American Veteran, The	All Hands TV	This Week in the Pentagon
12:00 PM	Today's Air Force	Special Event Encore	Grill Sergeants, The				
12:30 PM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
01:00 PM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
01:30 PM	Recon Revisited	Recon	Recon Revisited	Recon	Recon Revisited	Recon Revisited	Balad and Beyond
02:00 PM	This Week in the Pentagon	This Week in the Pentagon	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	All Hands TV
02:30 PM	Grill Sergeants, The	Grill Sergeants, The	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report
02:45 PM	-	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report				
03:00 PM	Around the Services	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore				
03:30 PM	Around the Services	Recon Revisited	USARJ This Week	This Week in the Pentagon	Grill Sergeants, The	All Hands TV	Army Newswatch
04:00 PM	Around the Services	Today's Air Force	Grill Sergeants, The	Tour of Duty	Army Newswatch	Today's Air Force	Recon
04:30 PM	Around the Services	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	This Week in the Pentagon
05:00 PM	Around the Services	Pacific Report	This Week in the Pentagon	Exchange On Air	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	FNG
05:15 PM	-	AFN Europe Report	-	-	-	-	-
05:30 PM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
06:00 PM	Benning Report, The	Grill Sergeants, The	Recon	Today's Air Force	American Veteran, The	Grill Sergeants, The	Around the Services
06:30 PM	Grill Sergeants, The	Around the Services	Around the Services				
07:00 PM	VA News	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	Around the Services
07:15 PM	Pacific Report	-	-	-	-	-	-
07:30 PM	This Week in the Pentagon	All Hands TV	Today's Air Force	This Week in the Pentagon	All Hands TV	AFN Europe Report	Around the Services
07:45 PM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
08:00 PM	Army Newswatch	Recon	Recon Revisited	Grill Sergeants, The	Recon Revisited	Exchange On Air	Around the Services
08:30 PM	FNG	State Department Daily Briefing	1st Air Force Now				
09:00 PM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
09:30 PM	Today's Air Force	Around the Services	FNG				
10:00 PM	Recon	Today's Air Force	Army Newswatch	All Hands TV	Ft Hood On Track	This Week in the Pentagon	This Week in the Pentagon
10:30 PM	American Veteran, The	American Veteran, The	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	This Week in the Pentagon	Pacific Report	Benning Report, The
10:45 PM	-	-	-	-	-	AFN Europe Report	-
11:00 PM	USARJ This Week	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange
11:30 PM	Grill Sergeants, The	Around the Services	-				

Just another REMAKE

Theaters fight recession with bigger, better venues

CHICAGO — Today, young movie-watchers look increasingly like Molly O'Connor. A junior at the University of Dallas, she still goes to the cinema occasionally, but is often just as happy to hunker down on a bed or a couch with friends to watch a downloaded movie on a laptop that's perched on a nearby desk or a chair.

"Sometimes, it's nice to have a wider screen, but I don't think I gain that much by going to a movie theater anymore," the 20-year-old student says. "Now, it's more about convenience."

Or as Michael Brody, 26, puts it: "I watch movies the way many people listen to music — anytime, anywhere, any way." A freelance writer in New York who blogs about film, he used to go to the movie theater every week. Now he's there once or twice a month, partly to save money and also because he doesn't think most movies are worth the effort.

Sounds like bad news for movie theaters. But we're talking about an industry that not only survived, but ended up thriving amid the arrival of television in the 1950s, videotapes in the 1980s, and DVDs in the '90s. The reason? An ability to continually remake itself and find new ways to generate revenue, by introducing everything from the multiplex and more elaborate concessions to lengthy pre-show advertising.

Now they're doing it again.

Not just for movies

Step into some of the more modern cinemas these days, and you'll see increasingly common enticements aimed at keeping the lucrative youth market, even as online video becomes more accessible on sites such as YouTube, Netflix or Hulu — or from movie pirates who steal and distribute movies illegally.

These upgraded theaters' offerings begin with the super-comfortable seating, even lounge chairs and bean bags in some auditoriums. Add 3-D effects and larger-than-life IMAX blockbusters, made possible by new digital projectors. And then come the midnight movie premieres and opening-night parties.

To boost revenues and appeal, many theaters also are broadcasting live sporting events, operas and symphony performances and hosting in-theater video game competitions on the big screen. Still others are opening in-house restaurants and bars for those old enough to drink alcohol.

It is this century's answer to the movie palace of old — or the "Broadway-ification" of the movie-going experience, as Charles Acland, professor of communications studies at Concordia University,

sity in Montreal, calls it.

"In a nutshell, what you're going to see is cinema-going aimed at people who go less frequently," says Acland, author of "Screen Traffic: Movies, Megaplexes and Global Culture."

It might cost a bit more, he says. "But it will be much more of a special event. People will expect some sort of an experience that you can't get anywhere else."

In Europe, cinemas are taking it a step farther by remaking themselves as entertainment destinations — with bowling alleys, karaoke bars, comedy clubs and children's play areas. Expect that here, too, as well as interior design schemes that appeal to the 18-to-24 set, and that might "dismay" the older crowd, says Toronto-based theater architect David Mesbur.

Is bigger always better?

Experts who track the movie industry say that, so far, all these kinds of efforts appear to be paying off, even in a recession.

Though domestic movie admissions had flattened or dipped slightly in the past couple of years, ticket sales this year are up, whether some of the most popular movies have been Academy Award material or not.

"A bad or poorly received film can go down a bit easier if one is sitting in a comfortable reclining seat and has the chance to occasionally stretch their legs. In this sense, cinema-going has as much to do today with the hospitality industry as it does with the film industry, *per se*," says Jeffrey Klenotic, associate professor of communication arts at the University of New Hampshire.

That's a disheartening view to Ron Leone, a film and media studies professor at Stonehill College in Massachusetts. He looks around the audiences at the "uncomfortable, but nice" independent movie theaters he regularly attends, and sees few young faces.

"Apparently, watching the cat flushing the toilet is more satisfying," he says, chuckling as he pokes fun at young people's growing appetite for online videos. Those videos include anything from kitschy amateur pieces to the growing array of short and full-length films found online.

Seeing the future in 3-D

That's why more theaters are focusing on movies with monster special effects that don't show well on a computer screen or in-home theater and that are all but all but impossible for movie pirates to steal — and why major filmmakers such as Jeffrey Katzenberg and James Cameron are banking



on 3-D and IMAX technology as the future of cinema.

So far, movie-goers have been more than willing to pay more to see movies in these special formats.

Earlier this month, when IMAX Corp., maker of large-screen movie-theater technology, reported a second-quarter profit with revenues nearly doubled. The company credited its growing cinema network, which includes about 250 theaters equipped to play Hollywood feature films in IMAX format, which uses digital technology to give what some call a notably richer visual experience, including 3-D.

Those films range from "Transformers," "Pirates of the Caribbean" to the "Harry Potter" films, all aimed at younger audiences. And when IMAX announced a special preview of the upcom-

ing Cameron film "Avatar," "our Web site got more traffic than you can imagine," says Greg Foster, chairman and president of IMAX Filmed Entertainment.

Combining movie and video game themes is a savvy move, says Chris Haack, a Chicago-based senior analyst with Mintel International, a market research firm that regularly monitors the movie theater industry.

He says theaters also would be wise to offer young theater-goers more chance to interact, for instance, letting them vote on which previews are shown or which movies stay at a theater longer than another.

The goal is to keep the attention of the 18-to-24 age bracket — "the most important part of the market," Haack says — and the most likely to watch video online.

A recent survey by the Pew In-

ternet & American Life Project found that 62 percent of Internet users, age 18 to 24, said they watch TV shows and movies online, compared with just over a third of all Internet users.

Overall, online video traffic has skyrocketed more than 80 percent, from 10.8 billion videos viewed in June 2008 to nearly 19.5 billion in June of this year, according to tracking firm comScore.

Acland, at Concordia University, predicts that will translate to more blockbuster action films geared toward the theaters, while character-driven films might open at theaters to create buzz, but ultimately get more play online.

Foster, at IMAX, agrees and envisions fewer "mid-range" films, those with some action but weaker plots or little character depth. "I think those movies are going by the wayside," he says.

BY
MARTHA
IRVINE
The Associated
Press

New poverty formula puts more below line

Agency's revised calculation could double the rate of elderly poor

BY HOPE YEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The poverty rate among older Americans could be nearly twice as high as the traditional 10 percent level, according to a revision of a half-century-old formula for calculating medical costs and geographic variations in the cost of living.

The National Academy of Sciences' formula, which is gaining credibility with public officials including some in the Obama administration, would put the poverty rate for Americans 65 and over at 18.6 percent, or 6.8 million people, compared with 9.7 percent, or 3.6 million people, under the existing measure. The original government formula, created in 1955, doesn't take account of rising costs of medical care and other factors.

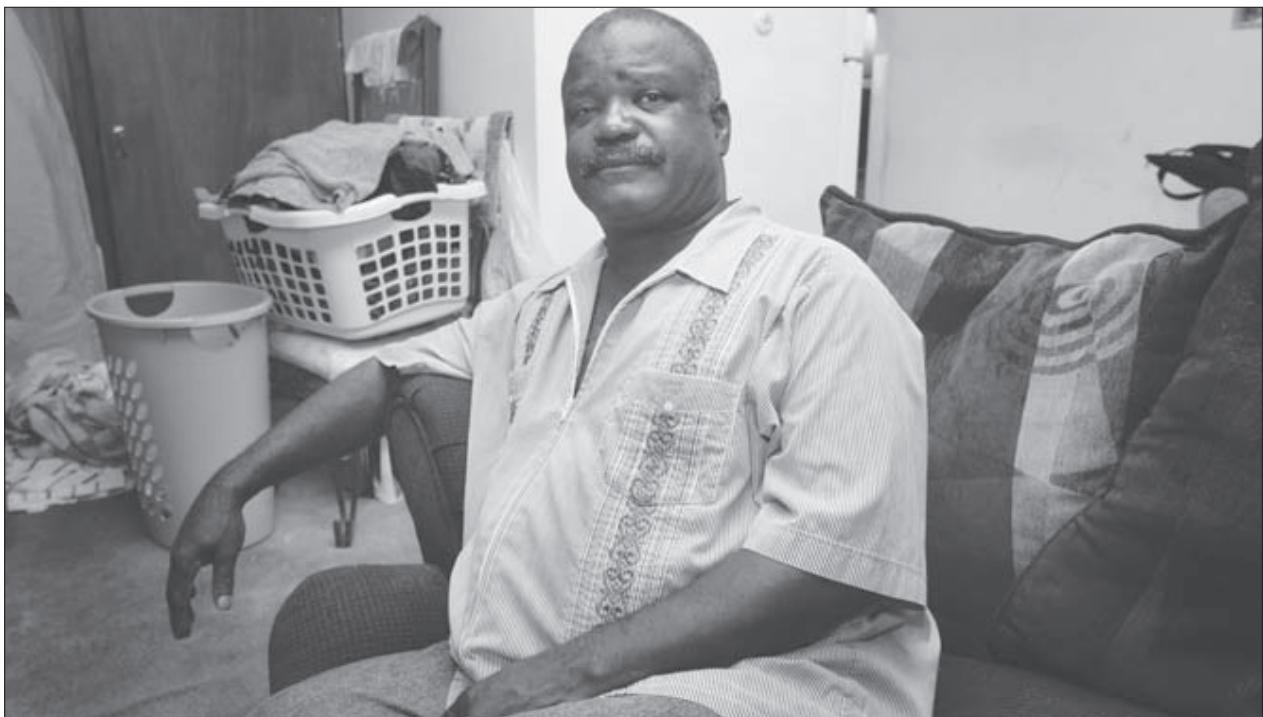
"It's a hidden problem," said Robin Talbert, president of the AARP Foundation, which provides job training and support to low-income seniors and is backing legislation that would adopt the NAS formula. "There are still many millions of older people on the edge, who don't have what they need to get by."

If the academy's formula is adopted, a more refined picture of American poverty could emerge that would capture everyday costs of necessities besides just food. The result could upend long-standing notions of those in greatest need and lead eventually to shifts in how billions of federal dollars for the poor are distributed for health, housing, nutrition and child-care benefits.

The overall official poverty rate would increase, from 12.5 percent to 15.3 percent, for a total of 45.7 million people, according to rough calculations by the Census Bureau. Data on all segments, not only the elderly, would be affected:

■ The rate for children under 18 in poverty would decline slightly, to 17.9 percent.

■ Single mothers and their children, who disproportionately receive food stamps, would see

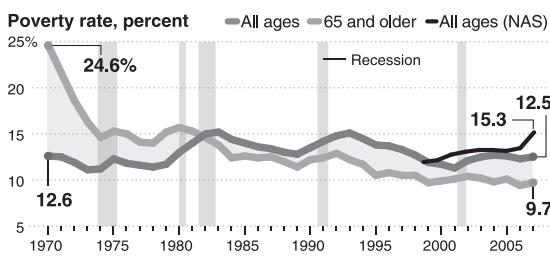


DANNY JOHNSTON /AP

Simon Norwood, a construction worker who hasn't found work in months, sits on a couch last month in a garage apartment belonging to a friend in Little Rock, Ark. The poverty rate for Americans 65 and older has stood for years at 10 percent, the lowest rate among age groups. But the true rate could be nearly twice that high, according to a revised formula created by the National Academy of Sciences.

NAS cites higher poverty rate

Under a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) formula, the overall poverty rate is nearly 3 percent higher than calculations made by the Census Bureau.



SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau; National Academy of Sciences

■ Immigrant poverty rates would go up, due to transportation costs and lower participation in government aid programs.

The decades-old White House formula is based on the 1955 cost of an emergency food diet.

The current calculation sets the poverty level at three times the annual cost of groceries. For a family of four that is \$21,203. That calculation does not factor in rising medical, transportation, child care and housing expenses or geographical variations in living costs. Nor does the current formula consider noncash aid when calculating income, despite the recent expansion of food stamps and tax credits in the federal economic stimulus and other government programs.

This week, the Census Bureau will publish poverty figures for 2008 with a cautionary note about the shortcomings. The agency says it will expedite release of alternative numbers in the following weeks because of the interest expressed by lawmakers and the

Obama administration in seeing a fuller range of numbers.

"The current poverty measure does a very bad job of measuring the impact of quite a few of our anti-poverty policies," said Rebecca Blank, the Commerce Department's undersecretary of economic affairs. "It isn't meaningful, but it isn't complete."

Although the White House Office of Management and Budget dictates how federal poverty is measured, legislation pending in Congress would require use of the National Academy approach.

In New York City, roughly one in three senior citizens fell below the poverty line after Mayor Michael Bloomberg adopted the new formula last year.

Many older people with modest cash incomes would fall below the poverty line under the NAS formula due to out-of-pocket expenses from rising Medicare premiums, deductibles and a coverage gap in the prescription drug benefit that is known as the "doughnut hole."

Learn what's new in STARS AND STRIPES.

Science & Medicine

EACH MONDAY

A look at news that shapes our world, from beyond our planet to the frontiers of medical technology, energy development and the earth's changing climate.

FACES

'SNL' adds two new cast members

The long-running late-night comedy show "Saturday Night Live" will begin its fall season with two new cast members.

A person close to the show confirmed that Jenny Slate and Nasim Pedrad have joined the show. The person requested anonymity because NBC has not made an official announcement.

Both comedians have connections to the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre, the New York- and Los Angeles-based comedy theater that also birthed the careers of numerous "SNL" cast members.

Slate previously partnered with Gabe Liedman for the comedy show "Gabe & Jenny." Pedrad, born in Tehran, Iran, previously had a one-woman show, "Me, Myself & Iran."

"SNL" premieres stateside Sept. 26.

Chris Brown gets trashy sentence

Police in Virginia say singer Chris Brown will remove graffiti, pick up trash and wash cars as part of his sentence for beating ex-girlfriend Rihanna.

The 20-year-old Brown was sentenced in California last month to five years' probation, six months of community labor and a year of domestic



Brown

violence counseling for the February attack. He is performing the labor in Richmond near his home.

In a letter to the judge, Richmond Police Chief Bryan Norwood outlined some of Brown's tasks. They include graffiti removal, trash pickup, washing cars, cleaning and maintaining grounds.

Norwood said Brown will be supervised during his service, but Brown would have to pay for any additional security if the public becomes aware of his presence.

hot dish

Idina Menzel and Taye Diggs are new parents of a baby boy. A publicist for the actors said Walker Nathaniel Diggs was born Wednesday. "Mother, father and son are all doing well," Jessica Kolstad said in a statement Thursday. Walker is the first child for Diggs and Menzel, both 38. The couple wed in 2003.

Talk show host Oprah Winfrey plans to dedicate an upcoming episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to late pop singer Michael Jackson. Harpo Productions announced Wednesday the episode, to air stateside Sept. 16, will feature excerpts from Winfrey's 1993 interview with Jackson, who died June 25. A release from Harpo Productions says Winfrey will remember "the King of Pop with never-before-revealed personal details" from the interview.

— The Associated Press

LOVE FOR FURRY FRIENDS

Iams Home 4 the Holidays

Actress Hilary Swank is putting her animal appreciation to work as an ambassador for a pet adoption campaign. The two-time Academy Award-winning actress said Wednesday that the Iams Home 4 the Holidays Pet Adoption Campaign has "struck a chord with my heart." Swank, named the campaign's 2009 ambassador, says her mission is to help 1.5 million pets in shelters find homes between Oct. 1 and Jan. 4.



HOME ON THE RANGE



AP

Homegrown superstar Dolly Parton sang "My Mountain, My Home" as leaders rededicated the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th anniversary Wednesday. "These are my mountains, my valleys. These are my rivers flowing like a song," sang Parton as some 2,000 people gathered at the Tennessee-North Carolina border of America's most-visited park.

— The Associated Press

ON THE MENU: BLOOD SAUSAGE



AP

"Twilight" star Robert Pattinson has an idea for the next time he's surrounded by screaming, adoring female fans. Pattinson gets followed everywhere, even to restaurants, and figures that if he asks one of his fans to have breakfast with him, they'll be "totally embarrassed and would never scream my name again."

— Wireless Flash

'Stars' dancer hopes lightning strikes again

When he was younger, "Dancing with the Stars" pro Mark Ballas says it was a nightly ritual to watch Melissa Joan Hart in the popular 1990s show "Clarissa Explains It All."

"I would tell my mom not to talk to me when it was on," Ballas confesses.

Now, Ballas is again giving Hart all his attention by teaching her how to dance.

The pair will compete together on the ninth season of "Dancing with the Stars" premiering stateside Sept. 21.

They're more than a week into rehearsals and Hart, who also starred in the TV series "Sabrina the Teenage Witch," is ready to start doing lifts and stunts.

"She's doing pretty well so far," says Ballas, 23. "She has a tendency to kind of want to do all the hard stuff now. We've got to build up to it. We're only on day eight. We have three more weeks to go."

"See, I kind of look at it like, 'We have three more

weeks to go!'" admits Hart, 33.

She's got a good teacher. Ballas took his season eight partner, Olympian Shawn Johnson, to first place. He also won the sixth season of the show with partner Kristi Yamaguchi.

But on the upcoming season of "Dancing With the Stars," Ballas won't just dance. He'll sing, too. He and fellow "Dancing" cast member Derek Hough have a band and will perform music on the fifth episode.

At the end of the year, they'll release their second album.

Hart will compete against other celebrities like Donny Osmond, Macy Gray and Kathy Ireland for the coveted disco ball trophy, but Ballas is trying not to speculate on who will be real competition.

"There's always a bit of gossip. There's always 'Oh, I heard this one's good,' but you never know until you see them dance," Ballas says.

— Alicia Rancilio/The Associated Press



ABC

Dancer Mark Ballas hopes to take his celebrity partner, actress Melissa Joan Hart, all the way to the finals in "Dancing With the Stars."

Walter Scott's Personality PARADE®



peared 70-plus times on "Jeopardy!" and won \$3 million, is now an author and also appears in commercials and on the GSN's "Clued In." "And since as a writer I'm a stay-at-home dad, I get to see lots of my kids — my son is 6, my daughter 2," Jennings tells us. "It's been a pretty great life post-Jeopardy!" Thanks, Alex!"

Q What do you think of celebrities like Charlize Theron showing off their "charity" work? I'm sure the second the cameras are off, they step into their limos and zoom away. — Jim R., Detroit

A While we can't give you an across-the-board answer, many celebs walk the walk. And your cynicism is certainly misplaced in the case of Theron. For the last two years, the beautiful actress has spent significant time traveling with a mobile health unit in her native South Africa. "I can't sit here and talk about Africa if I'm not going to really do something," Theron tells us. "Once you've seen children die of HIV/AIDS, something changes in you. If I can go out there and spend a month bringing antiretrovirals to families and children who within weeks change from taking them, it's incredible to see."

Q Will there ever be a sequel to 1982's "Tron," with Jeff Bridges? — Pat Murphy, Boston

A Funny you should ask. Bridges, 59, will be reprising his role as hacker/arcade owner Kevin Flynn in "Tron Legacy," out next year. "It's going to be pretty cool," he tells us. "In the original, my character got scanned by a laser into the computer. For this one, I actually had to be scanned in for the special effects. So what happened in 'Tron' came true in real life."

Q Please settle a bet between friends. Who starred in more movies and TV shows, Roy Rogers' horse, Trigger, or Gene Autry's Champion? A steak dinner is riding on your answer. — Ron Riddle, St. Petersburg, Fla.

A We sure hope that's beefsteak you're talking about, pardner. And you may have to cut it in half, because the answer's plumb complicated. The long-lived palomino

Trigger (1932-1965), called "the smartest horse in the movies," co-starred with Rogers in some 90 movies and 100 episodes of "The Roy Rogers Show." Fellow singing cowboy Autry, on the other hand, rode no fewer than seven sorrel-colored horses named Champion (or Champ) during his long movie and TV career. Savvy?

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Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Send your questions to Walter Scott at Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.



AP
For gold medalist Sarah Hughes, shown here at the 2002 Winter Olympic figure skating exhibition in Salt Lake City, competitive skating is not everything.

Q The ice-skater Sarah Hughes was coming into her own a few years ago. What happened? — Ann Fall, Oro Valley, Ariz.

A Ah, but Hughes, 24, who took gold in 2002, has come into her own in her post-competitive life, graduating from Yale in May with a B.A. in American Studies. "I look forward to skating in a few shows in the coming months," she tells us, "and I can't wait to cheer on the U.S. at the Olympics next year." And we cheer for her.



Sotomayor

Q How did Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and her ex meet, and why did they divorce? — Stephen V. Gilmore, Charlotte, N.C.

A Sotomayor and Kevin E. Noonan first began dating in high school and married in 1976. The

two divorced amicably and without children in 1983, although she has said that the pressures of her job as a New York City assistant D.A. were a contributing factor. Noonan, a patent lawyer and molecular biologist, remarried and lives in Chicago.

Q I've heard the Moody Blues' '60s hit "Tuesday Afternoon" in a new Visa commercial. Are those classic rockers still around? — Melanie White (no address given)

A The band is still active, but somewhat reconstituted. Drummer Graeme Edge, 68, is the only original member, though guitarist Justin Hayward, 62, and bassist John Lodge, 64, have been on board almost since the beginning. Co-founders Mike Pinder and Ray Thomas, both 67, have retired. Who knew in the '60s that rockers would ever be in their 60s?

Q What is former "Jeopardy!" champion Ken Jennings doing these days? — Vivien Dodge, Columbia, S.C.

A We're glad you put that in the form of a question! Jennings, who ap-



Sony-Jeopardy!

Ken Jennings is doing just fine, thank you, since his \$3-million string of appearances on "Jeopardy!"

Fear not, fans of Charlize Theron — she's a do-gooder through and through.

Sunday Horoscope

It's an eventful and productive day. If you feel keyed up and filled with fiery energy, you're probably taking advantage of the dynamic Aries moon. This transit winds us up like a toy and then lets go — the release of tension is incredibly industrious! The Mercury retrograde is also upon us, adding a zany twist to the action.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 6)

Go into this new phase with great enthusiasm, and the universe quickly responds by giving you what you expect. Love is the main feature this fall, and you'll be gazing into the eyes of your loved one and basking in the reciprocated gaze. In November, domestic changes bring financial uplift. Travel in March. Aries and Gemini people adore you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Instead of trying to have it all, try to appreciate it all. Then you'll see why you really don't want to have it all — too much work. Concentrate on giving your love and undivided attention to one thing at a time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You often allow others to do their own thing while you hold down the fort or tend to responsibilities that may or may not be yours. Well, you need fun, too. Seize the chance to let off some steam.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A special relationship takes focus. If one person gets his or her way more often than the other, the connection will suffer for it now. You will get the opportunity to improve the balance.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Though you sometimes get the overwhelming urge to gripe, you're coping well with your circumstances. Even your best friends won't be very receptive to complaints today, so the best thing to do is let it go.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You see how things, and people, could come together to create a bit of magic. You do well matching up a friend with a job, someone who can help with a

special project or a love interest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

There are certain topics you just know will lead to an unhealthy discussion with some people. You know, but sometimes you forget. Remind yourself before you step out today, and you'll have a positive experience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Do a little market research. Learning what others think, as well as what they like and dislike, will be beneficial to your work. This information could lead to a very lucrative end.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Is there such a thing as being too openhearted? If it has you giving out cash and/or personal information to people you just met, then yes. Stay on guard today. If you're not sure how to handle a situation, buy some time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You're creative and interested in many different areas of study and business. It's a fine time to dabble. Dip your toe in just to test the waters. Let your gut feelings lead the way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Big projects inspire your inner warrior to emerge. You might learn that the competition is stiffer than you thought, but you are undaunted. You're ready to face and conquer (or learn from) whatever greets you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

There's nothing wrong with wanting people to like you. You set out to impress someone. You're after a specific reaction, but if you don't get it, you'll probably still be delighted with what comes next.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You'll be productive in ways that are not easy to measure, but that shouldn't diminish your sense of pride. The tangible evidence will come soon enough as you continue working on yourself in this manner.

Creators.com

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Yesterday's solution

9	2	4	3	1	7	8	6	5
1	7	8	5	4	6	2	9	3
3	5	6	8	9	2	7	1	4
6	8	2	4	3	1	5	7	9
4	1	5	2	7	9	6	3	8
7	3	9	6	5	8	4	2	1
5	6	7	1	8	3	9	4	2
8	9	3	7	2	4	1	5	6
2	4	1	9	6	5	3	8	7

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Many are watching pennies during economic downturn

Dear Abby: I would like to make the public aware of something that is the result of the poor economy.

When someone who is hurting financially is invited out to a restaurant, bar, movie, etc., and the person declines your invitation, please don't take it personally. He or she may be watching every penny.

Every cent matters if it's needed for food, shelter, bills, etc.

A person in this situation simply cannot afford to "splurge" on these kinds of activities.

Believe me, I know what I'm talking about. I have been invited to participate in various social events, and I can't afford to go. This is not something that I want to broadcast either.

Some of us may be keeping quiet about it.

Let's face it — it's an awful situation to be in, but one we hope will not last forever.

In That Boat in Illinois

Dear In That Boat: I'm sorry you're experiencing tough sailing, and I hope you will be out of rough waters soon.

Folks, this person is giving you a timely heads-up. If someone

suddenly starts declining social invitations, it does not necessarily indicate that he or she has become antisocial.

It may mean the person is financially unable to do so.

Dear Abby

My husband, "Fred," sees absolutely nothing wrong with the fact that he did not take a day off from work to attend my 94-year-old mother's funeral. He stopped by the ceremony for the graveside service, then left immediately and returned to work.

Fred is an independent traveling salesman who never works more than half a day,

so it wasn't like he needed to hurry back to an office or place of business.

He didn't even have enough love or respect for me or my mother's family to spend the day with us.

Do you agree with me this was unkind?

Fred thinks I'm the one who is being unreasonable.

Wounded Wife in Columbia, S.C.

Dear Wounded: Of course his behavior was unkind. It was also insensitive. Regardless of your mother's age, losing a parent is

painful and his place was by your side offering emotional support.

It appears you married someone who is usually centered on his own needs, and I'm willing to bet this incident isn't the only example. Please accept my sympathy on two counts: First for the loss of your mother, and second, for marrying someone who would be willfully absent when you needed him the most. Whatta guy.

Dear Abby: Cooking is my hobby. I enjoy hosting luncheons for my friends. I choose healthy, fresh ingredients, plan creative menus and presentation is important to me.

However, it seems that someone at the table always pipes up with, "I don't eat THAT!"

I think it is rude and guests should just place an unwanted item on the side of their plate. Am I right? I don't know how to respond to people who do that.

— Annoyed Hostess in New Jersey

Dear Annoyed: Here's how. Smile and say, "If you don't like that, don't eat it!" Then pass the relish tray and say, "Would you like some crudites? Nuts?"

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

'Dun Juan's' approach toward dating guarantees bachelorhood

I always recommend your column; however, I take issue with your slamming "Joe Spokes" for not directly asking out the girl in his bike group. Besides, only a fool would take a woman on a date and pay. It takes discipline, but if I invite a woman out, I ask her in advance to pay her way. This helps me weed women out. If they just want a free meal, they can go to the homeless shelter, and I won't have that terrible feeling of being duped into the meal and movie scam.

— Outsmarting Them

If you're looking to "weed women out," you're on the right track. Sure, it's best to be on your guard against gold-digging users — to a point. Treating women like scam artists right off the bat — "I'd love to take you out to buy yourself glass of wine!" — is right up there with Kmart announcing over the loudspeaker, "Welcome, Kmart shoplifters!"

But, don't just take it from me. I posted your approach on my blog, and nearly 250 comments later, women confirmed that opening with a demand for separate checks is the best way to end up on separate dates. Here are some typical remarks from all the gold diggers: "Gretchen"

wrote, "Women should never go on a date unprepared to pay for at least their own food, but to be told in advance is so weird and off-putting I'd probably stare at this [dude] with a blank expression and walk away." "Cornerdemon" was one of many women who said if money's tight, it would be okay to attend an art opening (free wine!). "Kris-tin" "always" offers to pay for her meal — or even the whole tab — but said if a guy announced beforehand that I was expected to pay I'd tell him I'd let him know how dinner was."

Your approach not only offends women, it suggests you'll be fishing pennies out of a fountain to pay the tip — or making the wife pick through the trash for returnables before you'll let her take the kid to the dentist.

Even if a woman has every intention of footing her share of the bill, her genes are driving her to make sure a guy's a "provider" — someone who has access to resources and a willingness to share them. But, wait! Gloria Steinem said women should get equal pay! Shouldn't they also pay equally, and from date one on? Sorry, but that notion con-

fuses being equal with being the same. Men and women are biologically and psychologically different, and that isn't likely to change anytime soon. In fact, according to evolutionary psychologist Donald Symons, "Natural selection takes hundreds or thousands of generations to fashion any complex cognitive adaptation." So, good news! It should only be about 25,000 years until women leap at the chance to date you.

Until then, you'll probably be "outsmarting" a whole lot of women — right into the arms of other guys. These would be guys who know better than to buy dinner for some near-stranger on the first date, but who understand that a couple glasses of wine are the investment you make if you'd like to have a girlfriend before the next Ice Age. Now, although you say your approach "takes discipline," I have to say, I suspect it's more your philosophy than your actual practice. But, hey, if asking women to pay is working so well, why stop there? You're sure to be fighting 'em off if only you'll tell a woman she has to put her money in escrow before your date, just in case she runs out on the check for her \$6 Merlot.

Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave., #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail AdviceAlkon@aol.com (www.advicegoddess.com)

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Stranger accused of slapping child

GA STONE MOUNTAIN

— Police say a 61-year-old man annoyed with a crying 2-year-old girl at a Walmart slapped the child several times after warning the toddler's mother to keep her quiet.

A police report said after the stranger hit the girl at least four times, he said, "See, I told you I would shut her up."

Roger Stephens of Stone Mountain is charged with felony cruelty to children.

Authorities said the girl and her mother were shopping when the toddler began crying. The police report says Stephens told the mother, "If you don't shut that baby up, I will shut her up for you."

Foreclosure to shut down Hawaiian resort

HI HONOLULU — The operators of the 310-room Maui Prince Hotel — which is being foreclosed — said the resort and neighboring golf courses will close.

Prince Resorts Hawaii President Donn Takahashi said 380 employees will lose their jobs when the resort is shut down on Sept. 16. Most have worked at the resort for more than five years, and many joined the hotel when it opened in 1986, he said.

Barry Sullivan, an attorney for Wells Fargo Bank, said the bank planned to ask the Second Circuit Court on Maui to appoint a receiver who would arrange new management for the resort.

The foreclosure complaint accused the partnership of Maui-based developer Dowling Co. Inc. and Morgan Stanley Real Estate of defaulting on a \$192.5 million loan taken out to buy the resort in 2007.

Student shot on college campus in California

CA SAN BRUNO — Police were searching for three suspects who fled a college campus after a shooting that left an 18-year-old wounded.

The shooting happened when two groups of teenage boys got into an argument in a parking lot at Skyline Community College in the San Francisco suburb of San Bruno, police Cmdr. Marc Catalano said.

The student was shot in the buttocks, said Barbara Christensen, San Mateo Community College District director of community and government relations. No other injuries were reported.

Catalano said the three suspects, all about 18 years old, fled the campus by car and had not been caught.

Woman hoped to freeze eggs before prison term

MI DETROIT — A Detroit-area woman who wanted to freeze her eggs before going to prison for six years failed to persuade a judge to delay her sentence by two weeks.

Noting a series of earlier extensions, U.S. District Judge Marianne Battani said Dawn Hanna had "ample time ... to get her personal business in order."



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hanna, 36, was convicted last year of breaking a U.S. trade embargo with Iraq by selling telecommunications equipment before the war started in 2003.

Athlete wrests gun from girl on school bus

MS YAZOO CITY — Authorities said a high school football player in Mississippi tackled a girl who pulled out a gun on a school bus and took the weapon away from her.

Sheriff Tommy Vaughan said the 14-year-old girl pulled a semiautomatic handgun out of her bag after boarding the bus in Yazoo County in central Mississippi.

Vaughan told the Clarion-Ledger newspaper the girl began shouting about someone on the bus picking on her.

Football player Kaleb Eulls said he was sleeping when one of his sisters on the bus shook him awake. The 6-foot-4, 255-pound senior approached the girl, tackled her and wrestled the gun out of her hand.

The unnamed girl faces charges of attempted assault and kidnapping for each of the 22 people on board the bus.

Girl admits trying to poison dad's Jell-O

MT LIVINGSTON — A 15-year-old Montana girl has admitted trying to poison her father with tainted Jell-O.



Just kidding

A road sign making fun of the famous Skid Row marks the entrance to the Barnet Elementary School in Barnet, Vt.

The teen appeared before District Judge Nels Swandal via video conferencing. She admitted to a charge of simple assault, a lesser count than the felony attempted aggravated assault charge she first faced.

Court records say in early June the girl made Jell-O tainted with lamp oil. Twice over a period of three days she tried to get her father to eat it. The girl and her father had recently quarreled because he revoked her privileges for missing curfew.

The girl told the judge she thought the oil would give her father diarrhea.

Champion dethroned as rib-eating king

NV SPARKS — Top-ranked competitive eater and three-time defending champion Joey Chestnut has been dethroned as the winner of the Best in the West Nugget World Rib Eating Championship in Sparks.

Pat "Deep Dish" Bertoletti of Chicago beat Chestnut by one-tenth of a pound. Bertoletti downed 5.8 pounds in 12 minutes at the fourth annual contest and featured 12 competitors.

Chestnut, of San Jose, Calif., is ranked No. 1 in the International Federation of Competitive Eating. Bertoletti is rated second.

Bertoletti won \$2,500, and his name will adorn a trophy featuring three golden pigs.

Cops say Memphis-area students staged fights

TN COLLIERVILLE — Police in suburban Memphis say they will charge 31 high school students with holding organized fist fights that were recorded and posted online.

The Commercial Appeal reported police in Collierville were able to identify participants through videos posted on YouTube.

The fights were similar to ones that have taken place around the country since the 1999 Brad Pitt movie "Fight Club" about underground brawling.

Authorities said police were tipped off by the parents of a teen who took part in the fights that were held off-campus in parks and parking lots.

Officials said all but three of those involved were 17 or younger. They face charges including assault. The three who are 18 or older will be charged as adults.

Walrus, born in captivity, dies at aquarium

NY NEW YORK — A young walrus that was among only a handful ever born in captivity has died at a New York City aquarium.

Officials at the New York Aquarium at Coney Island in Brooklyn said Pacific walrus Akituusaq died of pneumonia despite around-the-clock attention from veterinarians.

The walrus was born at the aquarium in spring 2007 and beat the odds by living a little over two years. It was one of only five born in captivity known to have survived the first year.

New York Aquarium director Jon Forrest Dohlin said the staff is "deeply saddened."



Hurry up, Dad!

With her school supplies at the ready, View Ridge Elementary School first-grade student Alikia Horn, 6, waits as her dad, Carl Horn, laces up her brand-new, out-of-the-box shoes before the start of the first day of school in Bremerton, Wash.



Both a little scared

a two-alarm house fire in East Hartford. Boyko said the kitten smelled of smoke and was scared but was otherwise unharmed. Two families were left homeless, but no one was injured.



Musical number

Casper Hargreaves helps install a bronze sculpture by Jun Kaneko in Philadelphia City Hall's courtyard. Additional sculptures by Kaneko are planned around Center City to coincide with the Opera Company of Philadelphia's premiere of "Madama Butterfly," with sets and costumes by Kaneko.



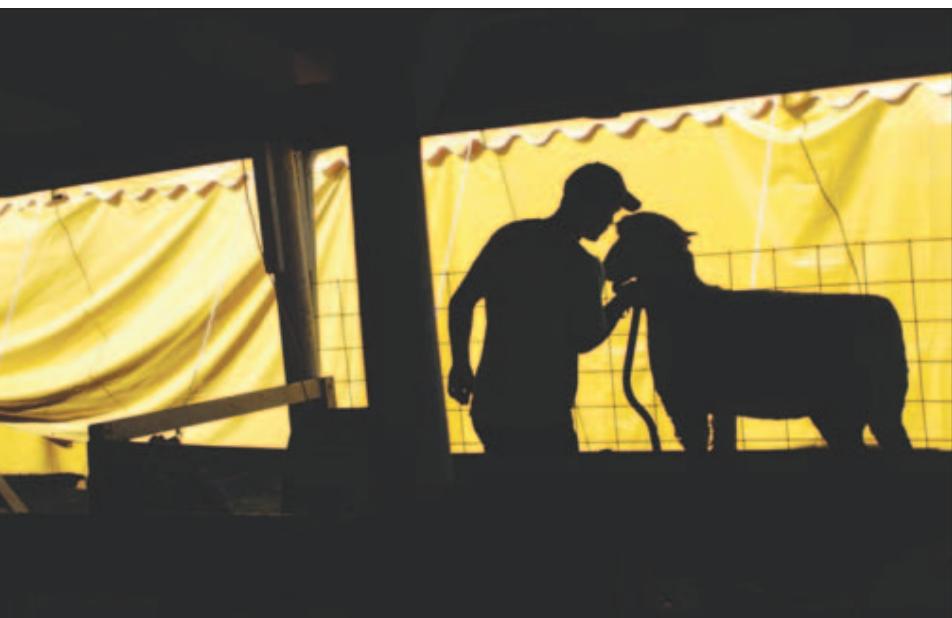
Sunset skate

Brandon Lovier, 18, of Galveston, Texas, skateboards at the Jonathan M. Romano Skate Park as the sun sets.



Ranch hop

A grasshopper sits on a sunflower at sunset on a ranch west of Sutherlin, Ore.



Fair bit of grooming

Luke Inbody of Bluffton, Ohio, trims one of his sheep in Findlay, Ohio, at the Hancock County Fair.

Bone marrow recipient greets donor with hug

MI DETROIT — A Canadian man with leukemia whose life was saved with a bone marrow transplant has finally met the Texan whose donation gave him a second chance.

Twenty-six-year-old Dany Mercado of Kitchener, Ontario, exchanged a big hug with 30-year-old Wesley Hamilton of Abilene, Texas, at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Center in Detroit.

Both men brought their families for the meeting, arranged to help publicize the Be The Match Registry that Karmanos doctors used to match them in November 2007. Mercado received marrow from Hamilton at Karmanos in January 2008.

Airline to impose fee for first checked bag

HI HONOLULU — Hawaiian Airlines said it will join its competitors in charging a fee for the first checked bag on inter-island flights.

Hawaiian announced that the \$10 fee will go into effect Sept. 14.

Glenn Taniguchi, Hawaiian's senior vice president of marketing and sales, said fares haven't kept pace with rising costs.

Taniguchi said Hawaiian held the line on the fee as long as possible, but has to remain competitive.

Pit bull that chewed off baby's toes euthanized

FL JACKSONVILLE — A pit bull that chewed the toes off a 4-month-old baby in North Carolina has been euthanized, while the child's mother and her boyfriend remain in custody, charged with felony child abuse.

The 1-year-old dog was put down and tested negative for rabies. A spokeswoman for Onslow County Animal Control said that to test for rabies, animals must first be euthanized.

The baby is in stable condition at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Jenkins told police she was on medication and didn't hear the baby crying even though she was sleeping in the same room.

State seeks to stop child care at a YMCA

CA LOS ANGELES — State regulators want to revoke the child care license of an Anaheim, Calif., YMCA day care center after two toddlers wandered off during an outing and were found on nearby railroad tracks.

In a complaint, the Department of Social Services said the YMCA Children's Station violated state health and safety laws by failing to adequately supervise and protect the 2-year-old boys, who were discovered missing during a routine head count. They were returned unharmed.

The state said the day care center did not have enough adults supervising children during an Aug. 20 outing to a park and failed to notify police or the boys' parents when the toddlers went missing.

FDA says frog or toad was in man's soda can

FL ORMOND BEACH — The Food and Drug Administration said a test shows that either

a frog or a toad was in a Florida man's soda can, but it's not clear how it got there.

The FDA confirmed the remains of an animal were in Fred Denege's can of Diet Pepsi. Denege popped open the can July 23 as he was grilling dinner in Ormond Beach. He thought the animal was a rodent.

Pepsi spokesman Jeff Dahncke said the company is aware of the testing and stands by its manufacturing process. The can was traced to a plant in Orlando that produces about 1,250 cans a minute. Dahncke said the speed of production lines and rigorous quality control make it virtually impossible for a frog or toad to get into a can.

Giant national debt needs giant calculator

CO MONROSE — The national debt is so large it doesn't even fit on most calculators.

Western Colorado real estate developer Matt Miles said he was concerned that no one in government, nor most Americans, had ever seen the number. So he made a new calculator.

The "Big Red" calculator displays 16 digits. That's enough to show all the numbers in the national debt, which totaled nearly \$11.8 trillion — or \$11,792,918,170,836.43 — at the start of September.

Miles said he wants to get people thinking about how much the United States owes.

He wouldn't say how much he invested to launch Big Red, but he says the number fits comfortably on a standard calculator.

Police: Man lied to get into zoo movie set, fell

MA BOSTON — Massachusetts State Police say a man who fell 30 feet into a pit being used as a lion's den on a movie set at a Boston zoo remains hospitalized.

Police on Thursday identified him as 27-year-old Arnold Milfort, of Boston. Authorities initially said he was a teenager, based on his appearance.

Milfort's brother, Beral Milfort, said doctors told him his brother's injuries aren't serious, but he has a sore back. He said his brother didn't tell him how he fell.

Milfort has not been charged.

Hundreds of feral animals found in home

CA TEMECULA — A Southern California man has acknowledged letting hundreds of feral dogs and cats wander his property and kill each other.

Elisao Jimenez, 67, of Temecula entered the plea to three counts of animal cruelty.

Jimenez was arrested in January after authorities found dozens of cats and about 80 dogs at his mobile home. They euthanized more than 100 dogs and cats and found more than 200 dead cats and dogs decomposing in trash bags.

A Riverside County judge sentenced Jimenez to probation, three days in jail that he's already served and 1,000 hours of community service. Jimenez can't keep animals while on probation and must have mental health treatment.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Rethink the role of parole *Los Angeles Times*

The tragic case of Jaycee Lee Dugard, abducted at age 11 and allegedly held captive for 18 years in a backyard complex of tents and outbuildings at an Antioch, Calif., home, has raised a newly relevant question: How could the alleged kidnappers and their victims have hidden in plain sight for so long? And does the apparent failure of parole agents to detect the ongoing crimes show that reforms to the state's parole system are a bad idea?

Phillip Garrido and his wife, Nancy, who have been charged with 29 counts of kidnapping and rape, were well-known to law enforcement. ... A parole officer visited the Garridos' home a few times a month but never saw anything suspicious. ...

Faced with the necessity of cutting \$1.2 billion from the ballooning corrections budget, the Assembly ... approved a bill that would, among other things, change the way California supervises parolees. As has been repeatedly documented, this state's parole system is a train wreck of inefficiency that crowds prisons, overwhelms parole officers and produces the nation's worst recidivism rate. The bill would help remedy that situation by reassessing parole status based on the risk an ex-convict poses to the public. ...

Does that mean dangerous sex offenders like Garrido would be left to their own devices? Hardly. Not only would they still be subject to monitoring, but their parole officers would have more time to focus on them because they wouldn't be overseeing nonviolent drug addicts.

Layaway makes its return *The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch*

Shoppers' use of layaway to purchase school supplies is unusual for a retail season that typically hasn't been considered a major strain on household budgets. But the resurgence of this old system of buying is a sign of people not only dealing with financial setbacks in a down economy but also taking positive steps toward careful money management. ...

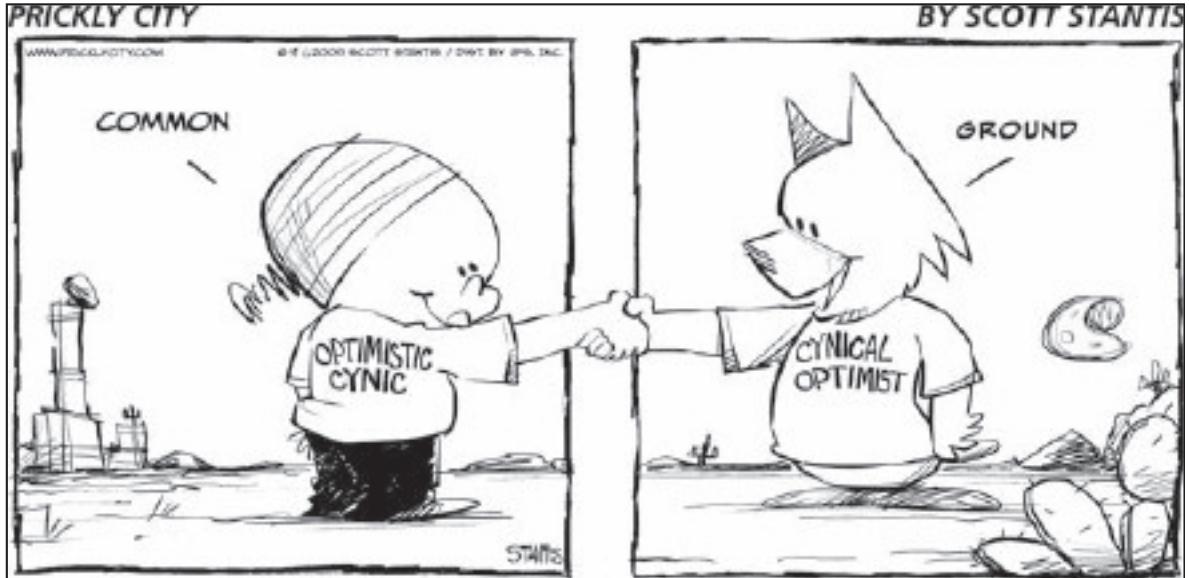
Younger generations have little experience with layaway, which became popular during the Depression but declined as credit cards became the favorite alternative for folks without sufficient cash. Although Kmart has offered layaway for more than 40 years, officials were surprised at the surge in its use for school supplies. Typically, the pre-Christmas shopping season is the reason for layaway. ...

Sears Holdings Corp., parent company to Sears, Roebuck and Co. and Kmart stores, last month unveiled a Christmas Club card, to which customers can add money through Nov. 14, then use the card to shop after that. ...

Recent Federal Reserve Board reports show that consumers cut their credit-card balances five months in a row, and savings rates have ticked upward. These are welcome indications that Americans have developed a renewed interest in fiscal prudence.

Anti-texting video appropriate *The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*

The video is shocking and makes your heart race: A girl distracted from driving by texting on her cell phone crosses the center line and runs head-on into an oncoming car, then is rammed by another car. The video takes you inside her car,



and with computer animation shows her friends' heads crashing into the windshield and windows, then shows the fatal, gory aftermath.

It's disturbing. It's meant to be.

The video, produced by a local police department in Wales, was created for use in schools there. But an excerpt got posted on YouTube, and now it has gone viral, with more than 4 million viewings.

It's controversial. But we applaud it as one more tool for convincing teens, and all of us, of the dangers of texting while driving. Some safety advocates question whether graphic scenes are the best technique. That shouldn't be the only approach — humor, reason, technology, laws and emotion are others — but if this video strikes fear in the heart of one person, and we're sure it has, it might save lives. ...

Legislation helps but, ultimately, each driver has to make his own choice. That's why the Welsh video might pay off. ... The images from this video linger, and make you think twice.

Dichotomy clear with Kennedy *(Arlington Heights, Ill.) Daily Herald*

Which Ted Kennedy shall we remember today? It is perhaps an overriding commentary on the late senator's life that millions of Americans will be making that choice as they reflect on the political career of one of the nation's longest-serving and most prominent public figures.

For many, the image that remains from Kennedy's tenure is that of the Senate playboy, the wealthy youngest son of a political family beset by nation-shattering tragedies whose hard drinking and romantic romps were nearly as legendary as his speeches from the Senate floor.

For many others, the memory is of the tireless so-called liberal lion who — while raised himself in the most opulent splendor — devoted his career and tireless energies to helping and protecting the nation's most vulnerable citizens, its elderly, minorities, sick and poor.

In one sense, of course, the two pictures cannot be separated. Ted Kennedy the man was an amalgam of all the aspects of his personality and ambition. And it cannot be ignored that the event that permanently crippled his presidential aspirations — the mysterious tragedy at Chappaquiddick — was shrouded by questions of his judgment, his sexual morality and even potentially criminal behavior.

Yet, Ted Kennedy the man was also a formidable public servant, and it likewise cannot be ignored that he placed his imprint on every significant piece of social legislation over the past 40 years. ...

Kennedy's reflexive liberalism and ties to special interests were, it must be said, too

strong politically for our tastes. Still, political and social contributions come from all sides, liberal and conservative, those who compromise and those who stand fast. In that regard, his mark was unmistakable and considerable.

Opposing bill isn't ignoring it *The (Ashland, Ky.) Daily Independent*

When the massive \$787 billion economic stimulus bill became the first major piece of legislation enacted under the new presidency of Barack Obama, it cleared Congress without much help from the Republican minority. Not a single GOP House member voted for the bill and it received only three votes from GOP senators, including one from a then-Republican senator who has since become a Democrat.

But Republicans who sharply criticized the stimulus package as being irresponsibly expensive are putting their opposition to the bill aside and accepting millions of dollars from it. ...

Some Democrats are criticizing Republicans for being so eager to spend the money they opposed, saying the GOP can't have it both ways. Yes, it can, and if the shoe were on the other foot, Democrats would be doing the same thing.

As we see it, every American taxpayer is helping pay for the stimulus package and the payments will extend into the next generation. When the GOP opposed the stimulus package, it was a matter of principle. When the stimulus package became law, the issue shifted from being one of principle to one of helping the folks back home.

The final frontier is funding *Minot (N.D.) Daily News*

Should the U.S. continue space exploration with a plan to return to the moon by 2020 and to explore Mars in the future?

From a scientific standpoint, the answer is yes. From an economic standpoint, the answer could be much different.

The plan to return to the moon is projected to cost at least \$108 billion, and perhaps as much as \$140 billion. And who knows how much a mission to Mars would cost. There are no more millions when discussing space exploration missions; everything, it seems, costs billions of dollars.

In today's economic conditions, are those costs something the U.S. can justify? ...

Unless President Barack Obama changes course, NASA will continue to operate under a plan set forth by then-President George W. Bush in 2004 that calls for returning to the moon by 2020. But a special independent panel commissioned by Obama has already concluded that the mission cannot succeed without additional funding — as much as \$30 billion.

The question for citizens, then, comes down to this:

- Can the United States afford to continue an aggressive space exploration plan?
- Can the United States afford not to continue an aggressive space exploration plan?

Bernanke: Unfinished business *The (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal*

President Barack Obama's decision to re-appoint Ben Bernanke as Federal Reserve chairman has been criticized as being the "safe choice." But "safe" is what we want.

Bernanke is one of the chief architects of the strategy to pull the country out of recession, which seems to be working, even if not as fast as most would like, and it makes sense to let him see it through. He is generally credited with yanking the country back from the brink of depression.

His renomination provides continuity and keeps together a team that has worked well together, Obama's Treasury secretary, Timothy Geithner, and chief economic adviser, Christina Romer.

The White House and congressional budget offices released an estimate of a record deficit this year of \$1.6 trillion. The White House forecasts a 10-year cumulative deficit of \$9 trillion. Both see unemployment peaking at 10 percent and averaging 9.8 percent in 2010, a half-point higher than this year. Both foresee a long, slow recovery. Chairman Bernanke, you have your work cut out for you.

Lack of info as bad as leaks *Asbury Park (N.J.) Press*

This is no way to run a nuclear power plant. Especially a 40-year-old plant that was recently relicensed to operate for another 20 years.

Last month, the Oyster Creek nuclear plant in Lacey was forced to run at half its operating capacity after it was discovered a pipe was leaking water containing tritium, a radioactive isotope, at the rate of five gallons a minute. It was the second time this year the plant sprung a tritium leak.

Two pipes found to have been leaking tritium in April have since been replaced. But a full "root cause" report on the April incident has been pledged but not delivered to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, let alone the public. There's no telling how long citizens will have to wait for a report on the most recent leak, which was repaired. It's imperative the NRC compel Exelon, Oyster Creek's owner, to publicly release full details about this ongoing problem — one that should have been identified and addressed prior to the plant's relicensing earlier this year — and to spell out plans for ensuring the recent leak was the last.

PERSPECTIVES

Fighting free fall of 'shame and humiliation'

Pack Parachute supports those who were sexually assaulted while in military

BY LINDSAY TOLER
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE When Amando Javier's 15-year secret finally became too much to handle alone, he turned to the people he trusted: his therapist, his sister, his wife. They were supportive, but couldn't help.

Late one night, searching the Internet from his home in New Mexico, he stumbled across a woman living 1,500 miles away in Seattle. Her name was Susan Avila Smith, and she specialized in helping veterans raped while serving in the military — people like him.

He e-mailed her. That day, she e-mailed back.

"She welcomed me with open arms and said she would help me," Javier said.

"She was the only one."

But more are on the way.

Pack Parachute, a new charity co-founded by Avila Smith this summer in Seattle, is designed to give men and women who were raped while serving in the military the financial and emotional aid they need.

Kira Mountjoy-Pepka, the charity's director, chose the name as a reference to the job of packing parachutes for fellow soldiers in case something goes wrong.

"You don't pack your own parachute. You rely on someone else because it can be too intense," she said.

The same way, Pack Parachute supports military sexual trauma victims as they seek help.

Pack Parachute's mission is to train advocates — many of whom, like Mountjoy-Pepka and Avila Smith, are victims of military sexual trauma themselves — to help veteran victims file claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs, find and keep a job and home, or simply get the cash to buy simple things such as toothpaste and bus tickets.

"It sounds small," said Avila Smith. But for Pack Parachute's clients, especially those who also have post-traumatic stress disorder, "simple things get really difficult."

"I've been in the trenches. That's the hard stuff."

Javier is not the first person whose search for help led to Seattle.

Avila Smith is known nationally as an advocate for veterans who slip through the cracks of the Veterans Affairs health care system. After she was raped while serving in the Army, Avila Smith became a self-taught expert on helping veterans who were raped navigate the complicated VA system.

Military sexual trauma is unique in the world of sexual assault, Avila Smith said. It combines the violent, violating act of rape with the alienation and shame seen in veterans suffering combat trauma — all set within the Byzantine complexity of military bureaucracy.

In the military, reports of rape are handled by officers, who tend to value unity and conformity over individual complaints, Avila Smith said.

Victims who report being raped can be ignored or have charges levied against them — for filing false charges, exhibiting conduct unbecoming of military personnel or adultery.

Sexual assaults are rarely reported in general, but in the military rape victims are often threatened, intimidated or persecuted into silence by military members who are directly

responsible for the victim's safety while serving, said Avila Smith.

Kay Whitley, director of the Department of Defense's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, calls the threats and persecution that can follow a rape a "revictimization" and said it is not limited to military members.

"I think it's a national problem," said Whitley. "That can happen to anyone, civilian or military."

In 2005, when reports began surfacing of sexual assaults during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, DOD made sexual assault prevention and response a priority and created new policies to provide victims with resources.

"With everything we have in place now, that should not be happening," Whitley said about revictimization. "We have made big progress in a short period of time. There is a system in place to take care of them."

The seven Marines who gang-raped Javier threatened to kill him if he told anyone, so he never reported his rape, he said.

"I knew these people. I worked with them day in and day out," Javier said. "I didn't really know what to do because of the shame and humiliation."

After he met Avila Smith, she hooked him up with an online support group,

men talking openly about their rapes.

"This is not a 'woman' problem," Mountjoy-Pepka said. A little more than half of military sexual trauma victims are men, mostly because they make up a majority of veterans, according to the VA.

"If you're a male in the military and you're a macho guy and you're raped, your shame is compounded and multiplied," she said.

Many veterans never make it to Veterans Affairs hospitals, often because mental disorders — such as PTSD and addiction — which are developed after a sexual assault or after facing combat can keep them from knowing or admitting they need help, Avila Smith said. Half of veterans and 80 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who reported sexual trauma are diagnosed with a mental condition, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"It's not like they walk off the battlefield and know they need to call for help," Avila Smith said.

Since its launch a little more than a month ago, Pack Parachute has focused on re-

cruiting volunteers, many of whom are rape survivors and veterans themselves. So far, at least eight people have begun training to provide emotional and financial support to military sexual trauma victims.

RobinLynn, an advocate-in-training who goes by one name, signed on to give veterans the resources and support she says she never got.

"They didn't have anything like Pack Parachute after I was raped," she said. "So when I found out about it, I was like, that's where my heart is."

RobinLynn was raped in 1980 during basic training for the Air Force, one month into her service. She said she was at a medical facility to get treatment for a respiratory infection when a man entered the room, shut the door and raped her.

She never saw the man again, but she was too afraid to tell anyone what happened, she said. She believed what happened to her wasn't rape because she never screamed.

"Women weren't supposed to fraternize with the men, so I kept my mouth shut," she said.

After completing her military service, RobinLynn tried to forget what happened to her. She threw away the decorations she'd earned after eight years in the military and wanted to move on with her life, she said.

Soon she began experiencing flashbacks, feeling overwhelming fear and having trouble keeping a job or relationship — all signs of PTSD.

She lived on the streets for 10 years, unable to bring herself to seek help at the VA hospital. The building triggered too many memories, she said.

After 20 years of silence, she forced herself through the doors of an emergency room and asked for help.

"I was so sick, but I had to do something," she said. "It takes a lot to be aware that you need to ask for help."

And now, RobinLynn and the team at Pack Parachute say they can start giving that help to veterans — in Seattle and beyond.

"I'm very proud of them," Javier said.

"They gave me the idea that I am not alone."

For more information on Seattle-based Pack Parachute's efforts, go to www.packparachute.org

Military sexual trauma by the numbers

Women

- Make up 10 percent of veterans.
- Make up 49 percent of military sexual trauma victims.

Men

- Make up 90 percent of veterans.
- Make up 51 percent of military sexual trauma victims.

1 in 5 FEMALE VETERANS

reports having been sexually assaulted while serving in the military.

1 in 20 MALE VETERANS

reports having been sexually assaulted while serving in the military.



BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

AFRTS Television Schedule
Updated sports listings are available on AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2009

(AFN-ATLANTIC)	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-PACIFIC)	(PENTAGON)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(XTRA)
15:00 Maya & Miguel	Animal Miracles "Saving Grace"	(2:45) Movie "Moulin Rouge" (2001, Musical) Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor, John Leguizamo.	The Rachel Maddow Show	Deadliest Catch Deckhand has a severe injury.	Fit For Duty Battleground	Eureka "Once in a Lifetime"	SportsCenter	Quick Pitch
15:30 Danny Phantom	Hercules: The Legendary Journeys "Mercenary"	Around the Services	Law & Order "Called Home"	Ft. Hood on Track Week-Pentagon	Stargate Atlantis "Progeny"	MLB Baseball Detroit Tigers at Tampa Bay Rays. From Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Fla. (Same-day Tape Subject to Blackout)	MTV Hits Playlist	
16:00 Naruto	SpongeBob SquarePants	Movie "Untamed Heart" (1993) Christian Slater, Marisa Tomei. Minneapolis waitress falls for quirky busboy.	Nightly Business Report	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Giunta Family"	King of the Hill	Top 20 Countdown		
16:30 Darcy's Wild Life	The Fairly OddParents	Nightline	The O'Reilly Factor	Recon Revisited	That '70s Show	Top 20 Countdown		
17:00 Ent. Studios	Bindi the Jungle Girl	The O'Reilly Factor	World News-Gibson	Army Newswatch	The King of Queens	SportsCenter	ECW With Todd Grisham & Matt Striker.	
17:30 Criss Angel Mindfreak	Lemur Kingdom	ESPNEWS	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Week-Pentagon	Everybody-Raymond	College Football Tulsa at Tulane. (Same-day Tape)	WWE SmackDown!	
18:00 Expedition Africa "Hunters Become the Hunted"	Movie "Enchanted" (2007, Fantasy) Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden.	Movie "Dan in Real Life" (2007) Steve Carell. An advice columnist falls in love with his brother's girlfriend.	Today	Law & Order "Skate or Die"	The Grill Sergeants	Prison Break "Selfless"	College GameDay	Attack of the Show!
18:30		(8:50) Movie "Bigger Than the Sky" (2005, Comedy-Drama) Marcus Thomas, John Corbett, Amy Smart.	MSNBC Live	America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back	Fit For Duty	The Big Bang Theory		
19:00 Access Hollywood	Dawson's Creek "Beauty Contest"	MSNBC Live		All Hands TV	Battleground	The Unit "Bad Beat"		
19:30				Pacific Report	Balad and Beyond	Saturday Night Live		
20:00 Deadliest Catch Deckhand has a severe injury.	Movie "Stuck in the Suburbs" (2004) Danielle Panabaker, Brenda Song.	Bulls and Bears		American Dad	Headline News			
20:30		The Simpsons	Cavuto on Business	Today's Air Force	Army Newswatch			
21:00 Law & Order "Called Home"				Til Death	Recon			
21:30				Back to You	Week-Pentagon			
22:00 Law & Order "Skate or Die"								
22:30								
23:00 CSI: NY "Page Turner"								
23:30								

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

00:00 America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back	The Simpsons	(10:50) Movie The Waterboy	Forbes on FOX	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Savant"	FNG Useful benefits.	(11:30) Austin City Limits	(11:00) College GameDay	Top 20 Countdown
00:30	The Simpsons	(-35) Movie "GoodFellas" (1990, Crime Drama) Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta, Joe Pesci. An account of a hood's tenure in a mob crime family.	Cashin' In	Fit For Duty	Denise Richards			
1:00 Sports	Movie "Enchanted" (2007) Amy Adams. Live action/animated. A princess from a fairy-tale world lands in the Big Apple.	Newsroom	Bones "The Girl With the Curl"	Around the Services	Trading Spouses: Meet Your New Mommy "Martin/Shatz"	College Football Navy at Ohio State. (Live)	College Football	Sports
1:30		Your Money	House "Distractions"	Around the Services	Around the Services			
2:00		This Week in the Pentagon	Law & Order "Skate or Die"	Around the Services	Boston Legal "Lincoln" (Part 1 of 2)			
2:30		Wall Street Journal Report		Judging Amy				
3:00		Glenn Beck	CSI: NY "Page Turner"	Battleground	Austin City Limits "Tribute to Bluesman Jimmy Reed"	College Football Countdown	College Football	Sports
3:30		Newsroom	America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back	National Guard News	Namaste Yoga	Georgia at Oklahoma State. (Live)	Georgia Football	Sports
4:00		McLaughlin Group	This Week in the Pentagon	The Benning Report	Total Body Sculpt With Gilad			
4:30	The Simpsons	Our World With	Wall Street Journal Report	Downrange News from Iraq and Afghanistan.	Big Daddy's House			
5:00 Sports	Barney & Friends	Swamp Critters	ESPNNEWS	The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer	Throwdown With Bobby Flay			
5:30	Obi	VeggieTales	Headline News	Headline News	Music and the Spoken Word			
6:00	Sesame Street	Postman Pat	House Call-Dr. Sanjay Gupta	House Call-Dr. Sanjay Gupta	Top 3	College Football Postgame	College Football	Sports
6:30		Danger Rangers	FOX Report	Entertainers	Fit For Duty	BYU vs. Oklahoma. (Live)	BYU vs. Oklahoma. (Live)	Sports
7:00		The Magic School Bus	Washington Week in Review	In Touch-Dr. Charles Stanley	This Week in the Pentagon	Day of Discovery		
7:30		The Electric Company	Army Newswatch	USARJ This Week	On Solid Rock			
8:00	Codename: Kids Next Door	Codename: Kids Next Door	Today's Air Force	T.D. Jakes	Planet Carnivore: An old lioness in the Ngorongoro Crater.			
8:30	Sabrina's Secret Life	The Brady Bunch	The Chris Matthews Show	The Coral Ridge Hour	Fit For Duty	Futureweapons "Smart Weapons" Machine autonomy.		
9:00			Crossing the Goal	Battleground				
9:30			Newsroom	Austin City Limits "The Flaming Lips: The Shins"	Extreme Engineering "Big Easy Rebuild"	College Football Scoreboard	College Football	Sports
10:00			Washington Week in Review	Recon Revisited	Entertainers	Scoreboard	Scoreboard	Sports
10:30			Army Newswatch	Fit For Duty	This Week in the Pentagon	LSU at Washington. (Live)	LSU at Washington. (Live)	Sports
11:00 Sports	Growing Pains	Nick News Special Edition	Today's Air Force	The Benning Report	On Solid Rock			
11:30	The Cosby Show	The Brady Bunch	The Chris Matthews Show	Crossing the Goal	The Suze Orman Show			
12:00			Newsroom	Austin City Limits "The Lost Cities of the Amazon"	All Hands TV	Rick Steves' Europe Classics		
12:30			Washington Week in Review	Recon Revisited	Quick Fix Meals			
13:00 McLaughlin Group	Movie "The Land Before Time" (1988) Voices of Gabriel Damon, Candace Hutson.	(10:50) Movie "Bingo" (1991, Adventure) Tom Cruise. A hot-shot Navy jet pilot down MGIs and loves an astrophysicist.	Journal Editorial Report	Recon Revisited	Iron Chef America Chefs compete.	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	Sports
13:30	ESPN News	(15) Movie "Top Gun" (1986, Adventure) Tom Cruise. A hot-shot Navy jet pilot down MGIs and loves an astrophysicist.	Fox News Watch	Battleground	The American Veteran			
14:00 Washington Week in Review		(15) Movie "Bingo" (1991, Comedy) Cindy Williams, David Rasche, Robert J. Steinmiller Jr.	Larry King Live	At the Movies	Star Trek: Voyager "Equinox" (Part 1 of 2)	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	Sports
14:30 House Call-Dr. Sanjay Gupta	(25) Movie "Bingo" (1991, Comedy) Cindy Williams, David Rasche, Robert J. Steinmiller Jr.	(15) Movie "Wild Things" (1998) Kevin Bacon, Matt Dillon. Two high-school vixens conspire against a faculty member.	Digging for the Truth "The Lost Cities of the Amazon"	Digging for the Truth "The Lost Cities of the Amazon"	Heroes "How to Stop an Exploding Man"	College Football Baylor at Wake Forest. (Same-day Tape)	College Football	Sports
15:00 Entertainers		(15) Movie "Wild Things" (1998) Kevin Bacon, Matt Dillon. Two high-school vixens conspire against a faculty member.	Newsroom	Ice Road Truckers "Arctic Whiteout"	Recon Revisited			
15:30			Navajo Code Talkers	The Grill Sergeants	Iron Chef America Chefs compete.			
16:00 In Touch-Dr. Charles Stanley	Be the Creature "Ethiopian Wolf"	(15) Movie "Bingo" (1991, Comedy) Cindy Williams, David Rasche, Robert J. Steinmiller Jr.	Geraldo at Large	Recon Revisited	The American Veteran			
16:30 T.D. Jakes		(15) Movie "Bingo" (1991, Comedy) Cindy Williams, David Rasche, Robert J. Steinmiller Jr.	Huckabee	Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations "Beirut"	Star Trek: Voyager "Equinox" (Part 1 of 2)			
17:00 The Coral Ridge Hour	SpongeBob SquarePants	(15) Movie "Bingo" (1991, Comedy) Cindy Williams, David Rasche, Robert J. Steinmiller Jr.	FOX Report	Dirty Jobs "Fuel Tank Cleaner"	Battleground			
17:30	Crossing the Goal	The Fairly OddParents	Newsroom	Ice Road Truckers "Arctic Whiteout"	This Week in the Pentagon	Heroes "How to Stop an Exploding Man"		
18:00 Austin City Limits "The Flaming Lips: The Shins"	America's Funniest Home Videos	(15) Movie "Bingo" (1991, Comedy) Cindy Williams, David Rasche, Robert J. Steinmiller Jr.	Glenn Beck	USARJ This Week	Army Newswatch			
18:30			ESPNNEWS	The Chris Matthews Show	Recon Revisited			
19:00 MotorWeek	So You Think You Can Dance	(15) Movie "Bingo" (1991, Comedy) Cindy Williams, David Rasche, Robert J. Steinmiller Jr.	Newsroom	Ice Road Truckers "Arctic Whiteout"	Recon Revisited			
19:30 Ebert & Roeper		(15) Movie "Bingo" (1991, Comedy) Cindy Williams, David Rasche, Robert J. Steinmiller Jr.	This Week in the Pentagon	The Grill Sergeants	Iron Chef America Chefs compete.			
20:00	Digging for the Truth "The Lost Cities of the Amazon"	(15) Movie "Bingo" (1991, Comedy) Cindy Williams, David Rasche, Robert J. Steinmiller Jr.	Army Newswatch	Ice Road Truckers "Arctic Whiteout"	The American Veteran			
20:30			Today's Air Force	Ice Road Truckers "Arctic Whiteout"	Star Trek: Voyager "Equinox" (Part 1 of 2)			
21:00 In Search of History "Navajo Code Talkers"	Lincoln Heights	Sage moves into the Sutton's home.	CBS News Sunday Morning	20/20	Battleground			
21:30			Headline News	Today's Air Force	This Week in the Pentagon			
22:00 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations "Beirut"	Touched by an Angel "Full Circle"	(15) Movie "Mr. Deeds" (2002) Adam Sandler, William H. Macy, Christina Ricci. Colonial villagers lose their heads to a phantom horseman.	Saturday Night Live	Fit For Duty	Mad Men "The Wheel"			
22:30		(2:55) Movie "Runaway Jury" (2003, Suspense) John Cusack, Gene Hackman. A man tries to manipulate an explosive trial.	Face the Nation	Recon Revisited	National Guard News			
23:00 Dirty Jobs "Fuel Tank Cleaner"	7th Heaven "Just You Wait and See"	(15) Movie "Mr. Deeds" (2002, Comedy) Adam Sandler.		Today's Air Force	Recon Revisited			
23:30		(10) Movie "Mr. Deeds" (2002, Comedy) Adam Sandler.		Battleground	Recon Revisited			

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2009

00:00 Ice Road Truckers "Arctic Whiteout"	So You Think You Can Dance	(11:05) Movie "Boyz N the Hood" (1991) Larry Fishburne.	This Week With George Stephanopoulos	Comics Unleashed	Around the Services	24 CTU tracks Gredenka; Jack copes with devastating news.	(11:00) SportsCenter	(10:00) Sports
00:30			Meet the Press	Two and a Half Men	Fit For Duty			
1:00 Sports	Smallville	Movie "Sleepy Hollow" (1999) Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci. Colonial villagers lose their heads to a phantom horseman.	NCIS "Trojan Horse"	The Benning Report	Grey's Anatomy "Drowning on Dry Land"	NFL Total Access	Sports	
1:30			Newsroom	The Grill Sergeants	Recon Revisited			
2:00			America's News HQ	Cold Case "The Goodbye Room"	VA News			
2:30				This Week in the Pentagon	Prison Break			
3:00				Army Newswatch	Recon Revisited			
3:30				NUMB3RS "Spree" (Part 1 of 2)	Friends			
4:00				FNG Useful benefits.	Friends			
4:30				Battleground	Seinfeld "The Caddy"	College Football Scoreboard	Scoreboard	Sports
5:00 Sports	Teletubbies	(10) Movie "Mr. Deeds" (2002, Comedy) Adam Sandler.	America's News HQ	Today's Air Force	Friends	College Football Mississippi at Memphis. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)	College Football	Sports
5:30	Rolie Polie Olie			Recon	Friends			
				The American Veteran	Recon			
					Total Body Sculpt With Gilad			

News
Alleged serial rapist barred from work at U.S. bases in
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Alleged serial rapist barred from work at U.S. bases in
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YOUR MONEY



FRANCIS SPECKER/AP

Mike Allen sits in his living room with boxes of his family's belongings during a moving day at his home in Murrietta, Calif. Allen received about 13 weeks of unemployment benefits earlier in the year. He wasn't eligible for more because he owned his own business and didn't qualify.

Running on fumes

Unemployed exhausting benefits at a record rate

BY TAMARA LUSH
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jobless since January, Donald Money has already moved in with his elderly parents, stopped going to the movies and started using less of his prescription medication so it will last longer.

This month, something else will fall by the wayside: Money's unemployment check. The 43-year-old former printing press operator is among the more than 1.3 million Americans whose unemployment insurance benefits will run out by the end of the year, placing extra strain on an economy that is just starting to recover from the worst downturn in a generation.

These are the most unfortunate of America's 14.5 million jobless: the ones whose benefits are drying up — in some cases after a record 18 months of government support.

With savings depleted and job opportunities scarce, people are living with relatives and borrowing cash from friends. They are even skipping meals. Through it all, they are trying to stay positive through exercise and prayer.

Money and others like him are scrambling to find work before the government safety net is taken away. On a recent day in Jacksonville, Money attended a church-run job fair in a half-vacant shopping mall. Most of the vendors were vocational schools trolling for students, or recruiters for the military and fast food joints.

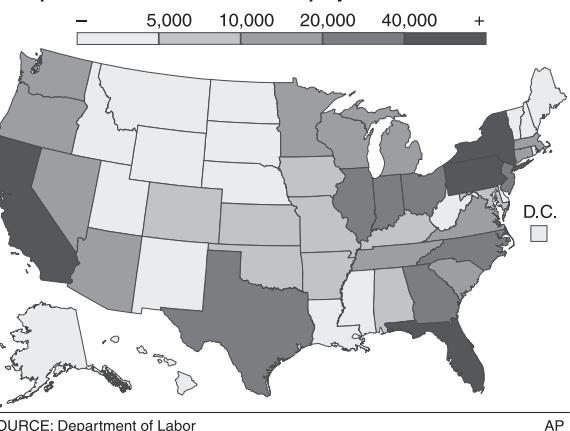
Money, who was laid off from a printing business, said he'll do anything for a paycheck.

"I'm tired of not working," he

Hundreds of thousands losing benefits

More than 700,000 people have exhausted their unemployment benefits. By the end of the year, the number will exceed 1.3 million.

People who exhausted their unemployment benefits



sighed. "I just can't sit at home anymore."

People who lost white-collar jobs seem most surprised by the dire circumstances they are finding themselves in as unemployment benefits dry up. Before the recession and financial crisis, it had always been easy for them to find work.

Clifford Sheffield, 43, of Fernandina Beach, Fla., used to earn \$2,000 a week as an analyst for Merrill Lynch's Jacksonville office.

Today, lives off of a \$1,300 monthly check from the government — and is burning through his savings to keep up with rent. The unemployment benefits are set to run out later this month.

At a recent job fair, he perused applications for Valu Pawn and

Taco Bell, but did not fill them out.

In the past year, nearly 5.5 million people exhausted their 26 weeks of standard benefits without finding work. The government says the "exhaustion rate" is the highest on records dating from 1972.

Some 3.4 million people now depend upon extended benefits approved by Congress lasting anywhere from 20 weeks to a year — the longest period of extensions ever added.

The length of these extensions vary by state, depending on the unemployment rate. More than half of all states have unemployment rates that triggered 53 weeks of extended benefits.

SEE BENEFITS ON PAGE 31

Military spouses create program to help troops, vets build new careers

Finding a job can be hard enough when everything goes right for you. When life hands you a life-altering curveball finding a job becomes even more difficult. Those situations seem to happen more often than we would like.

Thanks to Operation Life Transformed (OLT), the job of finding a job becomes just a bit easier for transitioning veterans, military spouses, and those who care for our war wounded.

OLT, founded in March 2007, is a unique 501(c)(3) organization, that has a mission to provide education and resources to service-members, veterans and military families.

The goal of OLT is to increase awareness of the long-term needs of these families as they support the spouses or caregivers as they re-enter the workforce. They also provide cost-free direct access to corporate human resource managers and résumé assistance.

OLT also helps eligible spouses and designated caregivers of those wounded in war to find and enroll in accessible short-term training certifications.

"When we find ourselves facing a new reality, we don't always think about the future right away," said Colleen Saffron, co-founder and chief communication officer of OLT. "Instead, we wonder what to do next. OLT helps with that."

OLT is there for the caregiver and the transitioning service-member but also for military spouses who seek to build a career.

"As military spouses, we move all the time. We accept jobs rather than build careers. OLT strives to remove those barriers," said Saffron adding that it pains her to see military spouses who worked hard for their master's degrees working as hostesses at local restaurants.

To combat underemployment, unemployment and facilitate workplace re-entry, Saffron, along two other military spouses, founded the program.

Tania Mercurio, a military spouse of 14 years, is the chief executive officer. Kim Marrero, a military spouse of six years, is the chief operating officer.

"Our programs do not focus on obtaining a degree. A degree is worthwhile endeavor but it takes time to achieve that goal. In the meantime, you still have to eat and you have to pay your bills," said Saffron.

OLT, instead, focuses on teaching marketable job skills so spouses and caregivers can get

to work and earn a paycheck as quickly as possible.

OLT provides funding for online education, and training certifications that lead to positions with military-friendly employers.

"Some certifications that are offered by our credentialed and reputable partner schools can be completed in only four to 18 months," said Saffron, adding that all the coursework is accomplished on the Web.

A Microsoft Office certification can be achieved in just four months. Other certifications may take up to 18 months to complete, but can also lead to other opportunities.

For example, a spouse or caregiver might become a medical clerk or a medical assistant with only the completion of a computer literacy course and a medical terminology course.

"From there, you can be hired by a doctor's office or a hospital. If you do a good job for them, it's conceivable that the employer would then help you on to the next professional level. It happens all the time," Saffron said.

OLT focuses specifically on career fields identified by the Department of Labor as being both portable and in-demand. Examples of courses offered include computer literacy, medical terminology, medical coding, health care administration and Internet technology.

OLT also works with spouses who want to take advantage of the DOD's MyCAA program, which provides up to \$6,000 over two years for training and education.

Ultimately, OLT hopes to become the preferred resource for training, education and career development for military spouses, caregivers of war-wounded, veterans, and military-friendly employers.

"We knew when we started the organization, it was needed. We never imagined it would grow into what it has," Saffron said.

To learn more about OLT, visit <http://www.operationlifetransformed.org/program.html>.

Janet Farley is the author of "The Military-to-Civilian Career Transition Guide" and "The Military Spouse's Complete Guide to Career Success." Her column appears monthly in Stars and Stripes. She can be contacted at: janetfarley@hotmail.com

Job Talk



Janet I. Farley

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Colleen Saffron

Co-founder and chief communication officer of OLT

YOUR MONEY

If you are facing a layoff, conserve cash to survive

Dear Liz: I am looking at a layoff in the near future, possibly in two to four months. I have paid off all my credit card bills and use the cards sparingly now. I have several loans, including \$25,000 left on my mortgage, plus car, truck and personal loans that total about \$60,000. I have enough savings to pay them off. If I get laid off, is it better to pay off the loans or to use the savings to continue to pay them monthly?

Answer: When you're facing a layoff, you should be conserving cash. That means paying the minimums on any debt and looking for other ways to trim expenses as much as possible. Selling one of your vehicles might also be in order.

Try to avoid tapping any retirement savings, since you're likely to incur penalties and taxes if you do so, plus you'll lose all future tax-deferred returns that the money could have earned. Dip into other savings sparingly.

You need to batten down the hatches because you may be without a job for months.

Given the environment, you should consider any job that will provide income and help you con-

serve your cash.

Dear Liz: I was deep in credit card debt but, because of a stroke of good fortune, came into enough money to completely pay off all my debts except my home. My house payment is now easy to make and my family is in the best financial shape we have ever been in. We even have several thousand dollars in the bank for emergencies.

After paying off the credit cards, we began receiving notices from many of the credit card companies canceling our cards or increasing the interest to astronomical rates. Each time I told my wife not to worry because it was just one less card to worry about monitoring, but this trend is continuing.

Recently we got a letter from a major retailer we have had an account with for over 25 years saying our credit debt was considered too risky and they were closing our account. I do not understand this because I do not have any credit card debt anymore. My question is, why am I being penalized for paying off my debt? Or is there something happening I do not know about?

Answer: Run, don't walk, to your computer and point your browser to the free credit report site at www.annualcreditreport.com. (This is the only address to use; beware of fake and look-alike sites.)

You need to check your reports to see whether your good name

has been hijacked by an identity thief. Although many issuers are closing inactive accounts and raising interest rates for broad swaths of their customers, most aren't referring to nonexistent debt as the reason to do so.

If you discover credit accounts or collections that aren't yours, you'll need to file a police report and dispute the errors with the credit bureaus. The Identity Theft Resource Center at www.idtheftcenter.org has fact sheets and other helpful information to guide you through this process.

If you have been the victim of identity theft, you should at least put fraud alerts on your reports at the three credit bureaus and consider freezing your credit.

A fraud alert signals to lenders that they need to verify the identity of anyone trying to open an account in your name; a credit freeze would prevent the lender from accessing your credit reports, which should halt new credit accounts altogether unless you "unlock" the report in advance. Again, the Identity Theft Resource Center has more information.

If you don't spot any obvious problems, it could be that the retailer was using outdated information. You can ask it to reconsider its decision, although most issuers are reluctant to reopen accounts once they're closed.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of the book "Your Credit Score: Your Money and What's at Stake." Questions for possible inclusion in her column may be sent to 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or via the "Contact Liz" form at www.askliz-weston.com. Distributed by No More Red Inc.

Money Talk



Liz Pulliam Weston



FRANCIS SPECKER/AP

A for sale sign is posted at the home of Mike Allen, who is shown loading a moving truck in Murrietta, Calif.

Benefits: Lawmakers mulling another round of extensions

BENEFITS, FROM PAGE 30

The government does not track how many jobless Americans have exhausted both their standard and extended benefits, but experts estimate the figure to be nearly 100,000 — and rising.

According to the National Employment Law Project, more than 402,000 Americans will exhaust their unemployment benefits by the end of September. That figure will more than triple by the end of December unless Congress — or individual states — authorizes another extension.

Legislation has been introduced to provide an additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits in states with high jobless rates; the bill, introduced by Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., has 23 co-sponsors, including two Republicans.

Unemployment benefits play an important part in stabilizing the economy because recipients tend to spend their weekly checks, rather than saving the money or paying down debt.

Trying to maintain a good attitude is key, said Mike Allen of Riverside County, Calif., who received about 13 weeks of unemployment benefits earlier in the year. He wasn't eligible for more because he owned his own business and didn't pay enough into the state's unemployment fund to qualify him for more assistance.

Allen, who is 41, moved his wife and 15-year-old daughter into his

parents' home in early August.

"They've got a small house," Allen said. "But it's a roof. We'll help out with food."

After their mortgage company refused to work with them on a loan refinancing, the family walked away from their home, which is several hundred thousand dollars underwater. Allen, formerly the owner of a trucking company, owes about \$500,000 in business loans. He's traded in his newer cars for a used Jeep that needs \$2,400 of repairs. The family sold most of their furniture.

His one bright spot: Allen has launched two employment-related Web sites in hopes of generating money through online advertising.

"We don't dwell on the past," said Allen, who added that his Christian faith is seeing them through. "We can't change it. We can only change our future."

Sheffield, the former Merrill Lynch analyst, said he has some job leads and is beginning a re-training program to become a radiographer. He's done some odd jobs around his neighborhood for cash, and has cut back on most of his expenses — even his \$25 a week comic book hobby.

"I don't drink or smoke, and I can't go to lunch or anything like I used to with my friends," said Sheffield, who runs on the beach to relieve stress. "I eat less. I've lost 20 pounds."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Sept. 8)	90.00
South Korean won (Sept. 7)	1,210.00
Euro costs (Sept. 7)	\$1.4641
Dollar buys (Sept. 7)	€ 0.6830
British pound (Sept. 7)	\$1.68

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6320
Canada (Dollar)	1.1039
China (Yuan)	6.8331
Denmark (Krone)	5.2247
Egypt (Pound)	5.5335
Euro	\$1.4251/0.7017
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7509
Hungary (Forint)	192.68
Israel (Shekel)	3.7723
Japan (Yen)	92.57
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2878
Norway (Krone)	6.0546
Philippines (Peso)	48.63
Poland (Zloty)	2.90
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4413
South Korea (Won)	1,239.01
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0626
Thailand (Baht)	34.05
Turkey (New Lira)	1.5082

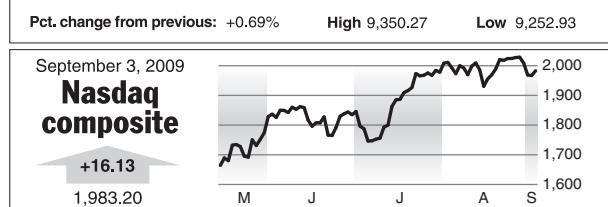
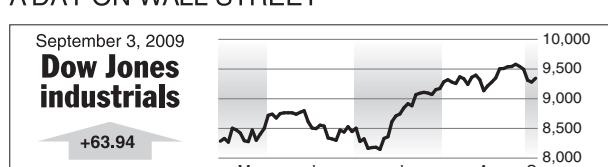
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.50
Federal funds market rate	0.00-0.25
3-month bill	0.12
30-year bond	4.16

Sources: Bank of America, The Associated Press

A DAY ON WALL STREET



SOURCE: SunGard

AP

NASA: Floating junk won't harm space station

BY MARCIA DUNN
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A piece of orbiting junk was expected to pass near the international space station Friday, but NASA said it would stay a safe distance away from the station and docked shuttle.

The old rocket part was expected to pass within two miles of the shuttle-station complex late Friday, considered a safe distance by NASA specialists.

Managers decided there was no need to move the linked spacecraft out of the way and proceed-

ed with a spacewalk as planned Thursday. During the spacewalk, two astronauts installed a loaded tank of space station coolant.

It was the second spacewalk in three days for the Discovery and space station crews.

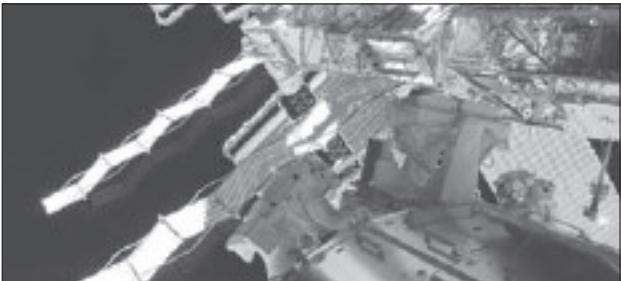
Despite a late start because of minor spacesuit problems, Danny Olivas and Christer Fuglesang quickly accomplished their main objective.

They collected the new ammonia tank from Discovery, bolted it onto the space station, then hooked up all the electrical and fluid lines. Mission Control praised their effort.

The old tank, launched seven years ago, was removed during Tuesday night's spacewalk. Olivas and Fuglesang anchored it inside Discovery for next week's return to Earth.

The tanks are big and awkward for spacewalkers to handle: nearly 5 feet long, 7 feet wide and 4 feet high. The new one weighs 1,700 pounds.

The men, both experienced spacewalkers, appeared to have no problem dealing with the tanks and they found time to knock off extra chores early Friday morning.



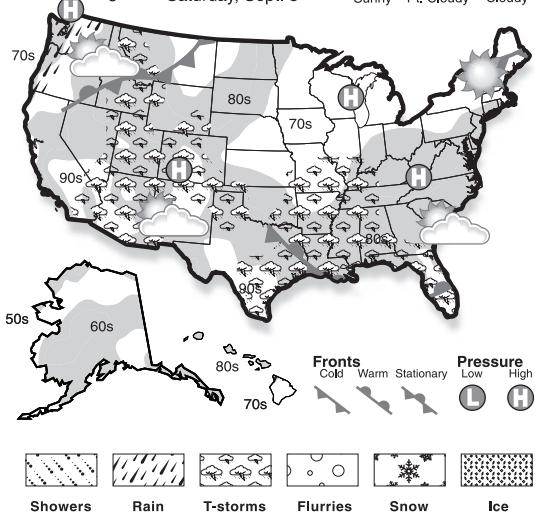
NASA/AP

Astronauts Danny Olivas, left, and Nicole Stott work on the international space station. NASA reports a mass of space junk was expected to float by the station Friday night at a safe distance.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

National forecast

Forecast highs for Saturday, Sept. 5



Friday's global temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	La Paz	57	32	pc
Amsterdam	64	57	Rain	Lima	67	60	Clry
Athens	87	60	Clry	Lisbon	80	66	pc
Auckland	59	50	Clry	London	67	55	pc
Baghdad	107	78	Clry	Madrid	90	56	Clry
Basra	115	85	Clry	Managua	93	75	Clry
Bahrain	100	86	Clry	Manila	84	78	Rain
Bangkok	91	78	Rain	Mecca	111	80	Clry
Barbados	89	82	pc	Melbourne	69	48	Rain
Barcelona	81	73	pc	Mexico City	75	59	Rain
Beijing	82	64	Clry	Montevideo	58	50	Rain
Beirut	88	78	pc	Montreal	77	59	Clry
Belgrade	89	61	Clry	Moscow	77	55	pc
Berlin	69	59	Rain	Nairobi	65	55	Rain
Bermuda	86	80	Rain	Nassau	86	77	Rain
Bogota	66	46	pc	New Delhi	91	75	Rain
Brasilia	87	63	Rain	Nice	89	72	pc
Brisbane	73	51	Clry	Osaka	86	77	pc
Brussels	64	55	Rain	Oslo	61	43	Rain
Bucharest	84	49	Clry	Panama	91	77	Rain
Budapest	89	55	pc	Paris	66	55	Rain
Buenos Aires	63	54	Rain	Perth	64	42	pc
Cairo	91	76	Clry	Prague	80	60	Rain
Calgary	86	49	Rain	Rio de Janeiro	82	68	pc
Caracas	95	81	Clry	Rome	89	69	Clry
Colombo	86	78	Rain	San Jose	87	69	Rain
Copenhagen	65	58	Rain	San Juan	89	80	Rain
Dhahran	111	78	Clry	San Salvador	89	69	Clry
Dhaka	87	80	Rain	Santiago	57	42	pc
Dili	95	71	Clry	Sao Paulo	87	60	Rain
Dubai	102	88	pc	Sapporo	73	60	Clry
Dublin	60	48	Rain	Seoul	82	60	pc
Frankfurt	72	59	Rain	Singapore	90	75	pc
Geneva	77	64	Rain	Sofia	87	51	Clry
Guatemala	78	62	pc	Stockholm	68	51	Rain
Hanoi	93	78	Rain	Sydney	71	52	Rain
Harare	79	65	Clry	Taipei	91	78	Rain
Havana	91	68	Rain	Tegucigalpa	87	67	pc
Helsinki	64	59	Rain	Teheran	89	73	Clry
Hong Kong	95	84	Clry	Tel Aviv	89	73	pc
Islamabad	85	68	Rain	Tokyo	75	69	pc
Istanbul	80	61	Clry	Turin	82	66	pc
Jakarta	91	75	Clry	Toronto	73	56	Clry
Jerusalem	89	73	pc	Tunis	97	77	Clry
Johannesburg	79	59	Clry	Valletta	86	72	Clry
Kabul	77	59	Clry	Vancouver	68	55	Rain
Kiev	70	58	Rain	Vienna	84	60	Rain
Kuala Lumpur	90	75	pc	Warsaw	77	57	Rain
Kuwait	113	87	Clry	Zurich	69	60	Rain

Weather Underground • AP

SUNDAY'S FORECAST



Air Force Weather/www.afweather.af.mil

Saturday's U.S. temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Casper	89	51	PClry	Erie	76	55	PClry	Jacksonville	88	69	PClry	Montgomery	90	67	PClry	Richmond	88	60	Clry	Spokane	80	56	Clry
Abilene, Tex.	88	68	PClry	Charleston, S.C.	89	67	PClry	Eugene	70	53	Rain	Juneau	63	59	PClry	Nashville	86	64	Clry	Roanoke	85	56	Clry	Springfield, Ill.	80	56	PClry
Akron, Ohio	80	53	PClry	Charleston, W.Va.	83	54	PClry	Evansville	82	59	Clry	Kansas City	77	58	Clry	New Orleans	86	72	Rain	Rochester	77	54	Clry	Springfield, Mo.	77	60	Rain
Albany, N.Y.	78	54	Clry	Charlotte, N.C.	88	59	PClry	Fairbanks	72	50	PClry	Key West	90	80	PClry	New York City	84	64	Clry	Rockford	80	52	Clry	Syracuse	78	54	Clry
Albuquerque	82	62	Clry	Chattanooga	87	63	PClry	Fargo	82	57	Clry	Knoxville	85	61	PClry	Newark	84	62	Clry	Sacramento	84	57	Clry	Tallahassee	90	69	PClry
Allentown, Pa.	83	55	Clry	Cheyenne	82	51	PClry	Flagstaff	74	51	Rain	Lake Charles	85	70	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	84	66	Clry	St Louis	80	62	Clry	Tampa	91	74	Rain
Amarillo	84	59	Clry	Chicago	79	56	Clry	Flint	78	52	Clry	Lansing	80	52	Clry	North Platte	81	54	PClry	St Petersburg	90	78	Rain	Toledo	82	51	PClry
Anchorage	59	59	Clry	Cincinnati	83	61	PClry	Fort Smith	82	67	Clry	Las Vegas	100	82	Clry	Oklahoma City	84	65	PClry	St Thomas	88	80	PClry	Topeka	77	58	Clry
Asheville	81	54	Clry	Cleveland	80	51	PClry	Fort Wayne	81	52	PClry	Lexington	82	58	PClry	Omaha	78	55	PClry	Salem, Ore.	69	54	Rain	Tucson	90	74	Rain
Atlanta	86	65	PClry	Colorado Springs	78	51	Clry	Fresno	92	63	Clry	Lincoln	78	54	PClry	Orlando	91	74	Rain	Salt Lake City	89	66	PClry	Tulsa	82	65	Clry
Atlantic City	85	60	Clry	Columbia, S.C.	90	61	PClry	Goodland	79	54	PClry	Little Rock	81	64	Rain	Paducah	82	61	Clry	San Angelo	90	65	PClry	Tupelo	85	64	Clry
Austin	92	70	Clry	Columbus, Ga.	88	67	PClry	Grand Junction	88	60	Clry	Los Angeles	86	66	PClry	Pendleton	83	54	Clry	San Antonio	92	72	Clry	Waco	90	70	Clry
Baltimore	86	61	PClry	Columbus, Ohio	83	56	PClry	Grand Rapids	80	55	Clry	Louisville	83	62	Clry	Philadelphia	86	64	Clry	San Francisco	71	56	Cldy	Washington, D.C.	86	65	PClry
Baton Rouge	87	68	Rain	Concord, N.H.	79	55	Clry	Great Falls	87	52	PClry	Lubbock	86	62	Clry	Phoenix	85	85	Clry	San Jose	78	57	PClry	W.Palm Beach	90	75	Rain
Billings	94	56	PClry	Corpus Christi	92	72	Clry	Green Bay	75	51	Clry	Macon	89	65	PClry	Phoenix	79	69	PClry	Washington, D.C.	86	65	PClry	Wichita	80	60	Clry
Birmingham	87	64	PClry	Dallas-Ft Worth	88	72	Clry	Greensboro, N.C.	86	60	PClry	Madison	79	45	Clry	Pittsburgh	81	52	Clry	San Juan, P.R.	89	77	PClry	Wichita Falls	89	69	PClry
Bismarck	89	58	PClry	Dayton	81	55	PClry	Harrisburg	85	58	Clry	Memphis	85	67	Clry	Pocatello	87	54	PClry	Santa Fe	80	54	Clry	Wilkes-Barre	79	55	Clry
Boise	92	67	PClry	Daytona Beach	88	72	Clry	Hartford Sptgfd	83	59	Clry	Midland-Odessa	92	66	PClry	Portland, Maine	72	56	PClry	St. Ste. Marie	75	52	Clry	Wilmington, Del.	85	60	Clry
Boston	77	64	PClry	Denver	85	53	PClry	Helena	89	76	Clry	Midland-Odessa	74	66	PClry	Portland, Ore.	69	58	Rain	Savannah	89	67	PClry	Yakima	82	54	Clry
Bridgeport	82	61	Clry	Des Moines	79	54	PClry	Honolulu	89	72	Clry	Mpls-St Paul	80	58	Clry	Raleigh-Durham	81	60	PClry	Seattle	66	57	Rain	Youngstown	79	50	PClry
Brownsville	92	74	Clry	Detroit	79	58	Clry	Houston	88	72	Rain	Milwaukee	74	56	Clry	Pueblo	85	53	Clry	Shreveport	83	68	Rain				
Buffalo	77	56	Clry	Duluth	76	54	PClry	Huntsville	88	63	Clry	Mpls-St Paul	80	58	Clry	Raleigh-Durham	87	60	Clry	Sioux City	78	51	Clry				
Burlington, Vt.	75	53	Clry	El Paso	91	67	PClry	Indianapolis	82	57	PClry	Missoula	89	53	PClry	Rapid City	81	60	Clry	Sioux Falls	79	52	Clry				
Caribou, Maine	70	45	Clry	Elkins	79	47	PClry	Jackson, Miss.	88	66	Clry	Mobile	86	68	Clry	Reno	87	57	PClry	South Bend	79	53	PClry				

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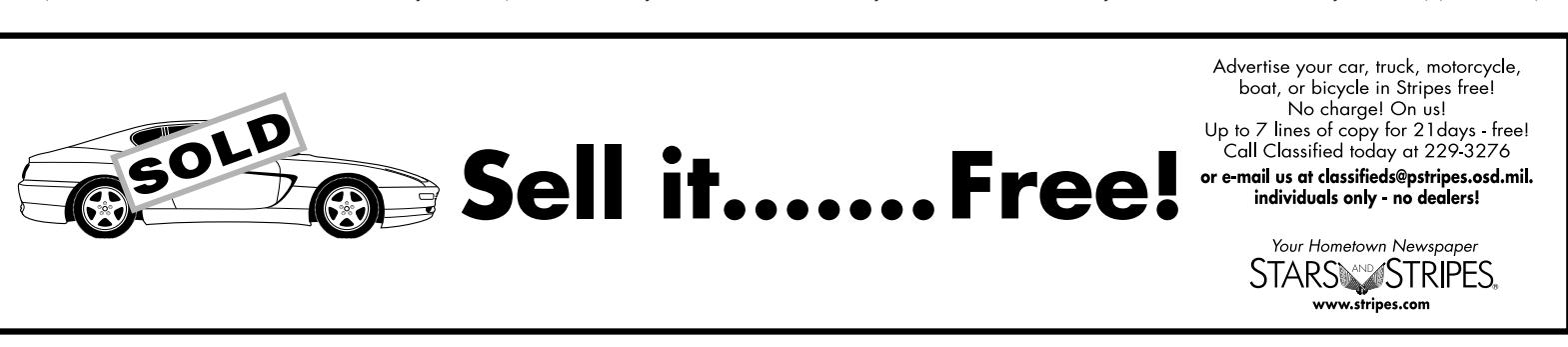
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Announcements 040

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. S&S suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. S&S is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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Announcements 040



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Email classifieds@pstripes.osd.mil or call DSN 229-3276

Autos for Sale 141

Autos for Sale 141

Atsugi - 1994 Honda Accord Ex 2.2L (2,200 cc) 4-cylinder SOHC VTEC, 4-door sedan, Gold. Power Remote Starter, Aftermarket Parts installed. New KYB Shocks and Trust Springs. Aftermarket rims with new tires. Aftermarket stereo system, and much more. 66,000km (41,000 miles) everything working in good working condition. Paper-work good until August 2011. Asking \$5,500 (OBO) Call 080-32577094.

Misawa, Japan - For Sale: Honda civic. JCI good until March 2011 and the 2009 road tax paid. Automatic transmission 6 disc CD changer Working A/C Asking \$1500 OBO call 0176-52-7219 or email combo1982@hotmail.com

Misawa, Japan - 2002 BMW 318i Coupe. Newer body style, only one on Atsugi with a Y Plate. JCI until April 2011, new brakes, great tires. Only 60000km, no accidents. Call 080-5677-7554 for a test drive. \$5000.00

Atsugi - 2006 Nissan Frontier Cab. Newer body style, only one on Atsugi with a Y Plate. JCI until April 2011, new brakes, great tires. Only 60000km, no accidents. Call 080-5677-7554 for a test drive. \$5000.00

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Autos for Sale 141

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Yokota, Japan - 1990 Nissan Skyline Red. Spec Note: JCI is not included. Pass & Id visit + IPod USB hardware (plug and play). Red, great for off road. IPod USB hardware (plug and play), Kenwood remote control CD player, sunroof, recent tune up (replace spark plugs, oil change, air filter), has a few dings but overall a great car. JCI until April 2011. Asking \$1100 but will negotiate. Asking price will now but we will need to use till Sept. 4. PCS'ng email pittmanfive@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 1986 Sprinter Trueno AE86 with JCI for 2 full years and cold A/C 170,000 km TRD Exhaust, HKS Intake TRD Suspension, TRD 2way Diff NGK Upgrades, 16" Rims, 16" Rims, F/R Strut Bar Water Temp/ Oil Press., / Volt Gauges etc. only serious buyers make a reasonable offer all serious offers will be considered. Call 425-274-4379 or email dani_coo@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 1994 Honda Accord, 2.2L (2,200 cc) 4-cylinder SOHC VTEC, 4-door sedan, Gold. Power Remote Starter, Aftermarket Parts installed. New KYB Shocks and Trust Springs. Aftermarket rims with new tires. Aftermarket stereo system, and much more. 66,000km (41,000 miles) everything working in good working condition. Paper-work good until August 2011. Asking \$5,500 (OBO) Call 080-32577094.

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STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Autos for Sale 141

Yokota, Japan - Drive with Style. Black on Black 1995 Nissan Gloria VPI Brougham Fully Loaded. Custom Wheels Deep Dish, Lowered, Admiration Body Kit. Features includes: Sunroof, Navigation, AM-FM, CD-Changer, TV, Automatic, P/W, P/L, Turbo, and Keyless Entry. Very Smooth, Serious Buyers Only. Reduced Price from \$9000 to \$7000. OBO. Similar features found on GOO.net runs for \$10,000+. Won't last long. Call 090-6630-9557 or email sjyram@gmail.com

Yokota, Japan - R32 GTST type M skyline Drift ready. Speedo RB20det engine, r252 tube new spark plugs, FMIC, GTR fuel pump, HKS SSQ blow off greedy prophecy 1 E. Boost controller, front ten tension rods, white GTR hood, S14 kouki eye lids. GTR front bumper after market front to front. 5000 miles. 100% in the front and rear strut bars, GTR driver seat. Racing seat belt harness W/padding CD player, new rear speakers, front and rear strut bars. HICAS lock bar not installed yet but can. Shimmied diff. better then stock KTS fully adjustable coil over's after market. custom made intake, rear diff. shift knob. 16" wheels. 16" market steering wheel full exhaust down pipe straight pipe CB, R32 GTR rims/tires & stock sun roof. Plus more! JCI Mar 2011. \$2200.00. Please 1-954-381-3971 state or email johntizalread@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Silver 1998 Nissan Cima Great Gas milometer. Available immediately. JCI until March 2010. asking \$1500. Please call (313) 347-1047

Yokota, Japan - Toyota Aistro 19" Wheels (New Tires) New Brakes Leather Seats CD Player 12in Sub w/ 400 watt amp Talking Alarm/w sensors 2 key remotes. Asking \$3500. OBO Call 093-7369-3526 or 0 6 0 - 6 7 8 - 6 6 9 3 or e_smalls@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Toyota Estima van Due to PCS, please call Hollie @ 1-763-354-5256 GPS system Interior/Exterior great condition Power windows/locks A/C & heat. Work great! AM/FM/CD Pioneer stereo w/ detachable face JY speakers 8 speakers. 6 seconds to 100. Can be turned to face back row or lay down flat. Back seats fold up to fit big items. Van runs great! JCI good till Jul 2010. Road tax paid Asking \$1500 OBO Please call 763-354-4616 or email sarah1576a@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Toyota Lucida JCI due Mar 2011, asking \$1800. 1996 Luxury edition, is in great shape. JCI until March 2011. please call me at 090-9391-1877

Yokota, Japan - Truck 4 Sale! 1994 Nissan Terrano - PCS move. JCI expires Oct 2009 buyer renewals. Asking price \$1500. Option 2: JCI renewed by owner asking \$1200. Please call 090-349-8086 or email maxine.howard@yokota.af.mil

Zama: 1991 4-wheel drive Nissan Terrano: Excellent condition; JCI just renewed good until August 2011. English GPS, ETC Machine; Kenwood Stereo with USB port connection where 4 thumb drives can hold over 100 CDs, power amp and speakers, hydraulic shocks. Many more extras. email Larry at LPLATT69@hotmail.com or call 090-853-3919 \$1800 or best offer.

Zama - 2006 Chevrolet Corvette C6 /Z06 Styling, Silver, 20" rims, American Spec. Excellent Condition. 250,000 miles. Dual Keen. Glass Coating. Hurricane Intake, Bassani Exhaust System. Z06, Bassani. Design. Leather Interior. Sport Racing Suspension. 450HP. JCI. Targa-Top; plus much more. Priced to sell, Kelly Blue Book. Serious Offers Only: 090-851-79568 or 268-4288

Motorcycles 164

Yokota, Japan - 1992 Suzuki DR250 Blue and white, on-road/off-road dirt bike. No inspection required for JCI due to engine size (250 and below). Asking \$500 OBO call Troy Skidmore 1-443-524-6394

Yokota, Japan - 1998 Harley Davidson Low Rider. 1996 - FXDWG. 1500cc. 5 speed, shift under cover. Custom paint and well taken care of. Serious offers will be considered. Asking price \$10,000. Please call 313 347-1005 or e-mail digtab@yahoo.com

Motorcycles 164

Yokota, Japan - 1998 Honda CB 400 Beginners bike with low mileage. Blue - Good condition. JCI until August 2010 asking \$1 2000. Pta a s e c a l l 090-349-8086 or email maxine.howard@yokota.af.mil

Yokota, Japan - 2000 Honda X-11 Only 10,000km, new battery, not recommended for beginners unless strong enough. Reduced for sacrifice sale from \$3,950 to \$1,450.00 need to sell or trade. Not otherwise motorcycle what do you have? Willing to finance. Please call 210-547-9936 or email samuelenglert@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 2007 Honda FLSTF Fatboy. Includes passenger seat, removable backrest (removable for passenger), footrests, and all factory manual. Extras are available, if you want to buy a reasonably priced HD to ride while you are here in Japan, this is a rare opportunity. I'm asking \$15,000.00 but all reasonable offers will be considered. I have a few more pictures, selling it because I'm PCSing back home and I don't need two. JCI until 2010 asking \$15000. Please email bakaboy45@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Aprilis RS-125 Motorcycle 2007 - 2900KM, JCI until Sept 2011. UMEDA sells new for \$500.00 yen. Asking \$4500 OBO. Please call 090-8504-7284

Baby Items 200

Yokota, Japan - Aprica baby carrier please come to Ome city to pick it up or pay for the delivery fee asking \$55 Contact 080-1040-2765

Yokota, Japan - City Mini Stroller Rarely used. Very easy to use and place in your car. Asking \$200 Call 054-676-4031 or email baldini3@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Fisher Price Rainforest Bouncer. Seat for babies for both mom and dad parents, the Fisher-Price Rainforest Bouncer offers a place for baby to play, rest, and develop key motor, visual, and auditory skills. Designed for use from birth until baby can sit up unassisted, this activity seat features a fun and colorful high chair complete with delightful toys and sounds. Original purchase price \$59. Gently used. Asking \$20 Please call 090 1793 3079

Yokota, Japan - Lansinoh Double Electric Breast Pump is an efficient, affordable electric pump designed to handle every day pumping needs. The patented system prevents milk back up in the tubing and pump. Dual independent controls for speed and suction allow for personal settings to simulate your baby's nursing pattern. This pump was used twice while we were in the states. We paid \$150, will sell for \$125 OBO. Please call 404-478-4616

Bicycles 220

Yokota, Japan - 2009 Cannondale 613 road bike. Size is 52cm. K-wing carbon fiber bars, triple front crank, and excellent components (Shimano Ultegra 6700). Frame Please contact 080-2161-6329 or 080-405-9 2674. Email gaj222@gmail.com

Yokota, Japan - 2009 Cannondale CAAD9-7 Blue 2009 Cannondale CAAD9-7. Size is 52cm. Excellent condition. Just 100 miles old with only a few rides on tires. Asking \$600.00 firm. Please contact Kevin @ 080-335-18852 or pre-d128@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - 21 Speed Ladies' Schwinn Mountain Bike used once. Asking \$80.00 OBO. Please call 856-568-6909 or email patti0319@hotmail.com

Yokota, Japan - Kona stinky for sale. Not used to terribly much. Only went around 5 times last year, yet go this year. Needs new seat if you care about the tears, other than that she's good to go. Also have a Kona hard tail and full body armor (upper part never used) for additional cost. Asking \$650. Please call 080-3755-3434 or email grant@fslimages.com

Yokota, Japan - Need PSYCO100 book ASAP (3rd Edition) Looking for Psychology. A Journey (3rd ED). Please let me know ASAP. Price negotiable. Please call 323-345-6970 Thanks!

Books 250

Yokota, Japan - New Baby care Book practical guide to the first three years. Dr. Miriam Stoppard asking \$10 Contact 060-1004-2765

Yokota, Japan - Project Management Fifth Edition Information Technology by Kathy Schwalbe. Asking \$40 call Sean 080-351-6553

Yokota, Japan - UMIQO Baby book I have the books for History of the United States to 1865, please contact me for further detail. Asking \$35. OBO. call 216-166198439 or rabbia64@hotmail.com

Clothing 320

Yokota, Japan - Cowboys boot (Western boot) Used cowboy boot in AAA grade in mix size for men and women sold at \$15.00 a pair in mix order of 25 pair Tel 514 333 0510

Yokota, Japan - David's Bridal Wedding Dress, Shoes and shoes. Beautiful wedding dress (size 8), worn for 2 hours (size 8) (8). Wedding and reception was indoors so shoes (size 8) were not worn outside. My normal dress size is 6 and this dress fit perfectly. Asking \$350. Contact William 4072939448 or e-mail williams999@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Aprilis Mac book items / iPod items absolutely nothing wrong to start w/ anything. I have to start w/ anything now! Even Apple Mac book items only I kept the box, it came in. Paid \$130 asking \$65. See-thru hard shell cover to protect a 13" Macbook. Was my son's he changed colors/s doesn't need this one. We paid \$50. Asking \$10 orig. box-once used. I have a box of new, never used Apple USB power adapter set. Asking \$15 I'll buy dual docking station alarm clock set w/ remote. I have the box. Ex. Shape. \$65 Contact 916-473-4488

Yokota, Japan - Red Apple Mac book items / iPod items absolutely nothing wrong to start w/ anything. I have to start w/ anything now! Even Apple Mac book items only I kept the box, it came in. Paid \$130 asking \$65. See-thru hard shell cover to protect a 13" Macbook. Was my son's he changed colors/s doesn't need this one. We paid \$50. Asking \$10 orig. box-once used. I have a box of new, never used Apple USB power adapter set. Asking \$15 I'll buy dual docking station alarm clock set w/ remote. I have the box. Ex. Shape. \$65 Contact 916-473-4488

Yokota, Japan - Halloween Costume - Girl Infant/Toddler Everything in photo included. Stride Rite Shoes Size 5M, One Size 18M, Scarf (Hair/Neck), Headband, Tutu Skirt (Baby 18M) and more. Asking \$35. Contact William 4072939448 or e-mail williams999@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Aprica baby carrier please come to Ome city to pick it up or pay for the delivery fee asking \$55 Contact 080-1040-2765

Yokota, Japan - Ninja Costume - Boys - Size Small. Size Small Polyester Infant. Long Sleeve Top, Pants, Belt, 1 Mask w/ Red Dragons, and 1 Mask Plain Black. Asking \$5 Please email lailani.laisson@yahoo.com

Yokota, Japan - Wilton Character Pans for Sale! 1 am spring cake pan, 1 am square cake pan, 1 am round cake pan, 1 am 18cm round cake pan, 1 am 20cm round cake pan, 1 am 24cm round cake pan, 1 am 26cm round cake pan, 1 am 30cm round cake pan, 1 am 32cm round cake pan, 1 am 36cm round cake pan, 1 am 40cm round cake pan, 1 am 48cm round cake pan, 1 am 50cm round cake pan, 1 am 54cm round cake pan, 1 am 60cm round cake pan, 1 am 66cm round cake pan, 1 am 72cm round cake pan, 1 am 78cm round cake pan, 1 am 84cm round cake pan, 1 am 90cm round cake pan, 1 am 96cm round cake pan, 1 am 102cm round cake pan, 1 am 108cm round cake pan, 1 am 114cm round cake pan, 1 am 120cm round cake pan, 1 am 126cm round cake pan, 1 am 132cm round cake pan, 1 am 138cm round cake pan, 1 am 144cm round cake pan, 1 am 150cm round cake pan, 1 am 156cm round cake pan, 1 am 162cm round cake pan, 1 am 168cm round cake pan, 1 am 174cm round cake pan, 1 am 180cm round cake pan, 1 am 186cm round cake pan, 1 am 192cm 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Classes start August 17th and October 5th

U.S. Open

Serve and volley can't stop Serena

By EDDIE PELLS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Serena Williams found herself in a time warp Friday, playing against a left-handed serve-and-volley specialist who had a game that brought back memories of Martina Navratilova, even if the talent wasn't at that level.

Williams did what she usually does when the stakes are high — adapted and won.

The second-seeded, 11-time Grand Slam tournament champion overcame an early service break in the second set to defeat Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez 6-3, 7-5 and advance to the fourth round of the U.S. Open.

It was an awkward match, full of counterpunches from the game's biggest power hitter.

"I heard a guy in the crowd saying, 'Stop hitting lobs,' so I didn't hit any more lobs after that," Williams said. "My lob was not working today."

Receiving at 5-all in the first set, Williams chipped back serves, made a few passing shots and found herself at deuce for the eighth time in a game that lasted 12 minutes. Martinez Sanchez finally wore out, double-faulting twice in a row to give up the break and, essentially, the match.

This was a rematch of a third-round meeting in the French Open, with Williams winning in three sets. After that match, Williams said she hit a ball she thought went off her opponent's arm, and accused Martinez Sanchez of cheating by not acknowledging it.

There were no signs of animosity during their rematch on a cloudless, comfortable, 80-degree afternoon at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Williams said that episode did not motivate her, nor would she cop to having less respect for her 43rd-ranked opponent because of what she thought happened in the French Open.

"I only can speak for me," she said. "I try to be very professional, extremely professional in my job. That's what I'm here to do. And win, I hope."

Williams, who came to her news conference wearing a T-shirt inscribed, "Can't Spell Dynasty Without Nasty," lost only seven games in her first two matches. She doubled that total Friday in the kind of match that very few have to play on the women's — or men's — circuit these days. The serve-and-volley game is out, power groundstrokes are in.

"Every time I play, I say, 'I'm going to be a serve-and-volleyer,'" Williams said. "I even used to like Martina Navratilova and John McEnroe. But I couldn't play more opposite than them. I love groundstrokes. I love rallies. I love hitting the ball."

Seeking her fourth U.S. Open title, Williams next meets 22nd-seeded Daniela Hantuchova, who defeated American Vania King 6-2, 6-2.

Tenth-seeded Flavia Pennetta also advanced on Friday, de-

feating Aleksandra Wozniak of Canada, 6-1, 6-1. No. 8 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus fell to No. 26 Francesca Schiavone of Italy, 4-6, 6-2, 6-2. Kim Clijsters, the 2005 champion who is returning to tennis after a two-year retirement, had a third-round match Friday afternoon against another Belgian, Kirsten Flipkens.

The men's draw continued to go almost strictly to form. No. 2 Andy Murray beat Paul Capdeville of Chile 6-2, 3-6, 6-0, 6-2, and No. 6 Juan Martin del Potro and No. 7 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga each won in straight sets. With the third round nearly complete, the top 16 seeds were still in the tournament.

"It was a quick match. I played great," Tsonga said after his 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Finland's Jarkko Nieminen.

No. 16 Marin Cilic and No. 24 Juan Carlos Ferrero also won. Cilic overcame a two-set deficit to defeat 135th-ranked American Jesse Levine.

"When it got to the third set,

he really stepped up his game," Levine said.

Americans Taylor Dent and Robby Ginepri were scheduled for later matches Friday.

The schedule for night matches included No. 3 Rafael Nadal against Nicolas Kiefer and No. 3 Venus Williams against Magdalena Rybarikova.



Launching Baghdad

Gulf Air will fly five times a week to Baghdad starting 1st September, 2009. In addition, the holy city of Najaf and Erbil, in Northern Iraq, will be served by the end of September, 2009.

	Dep Bahrain	Arr Baghdad
Sunday/Tuesday/Thursday	09:45	11:30
Friday/Saturday		
	Dep Baghdad	Arr Bahrain
Sunday/Tuesday/Thursday	12:45	14:25
Friday/Saturday		

To book your flight, call Gulf Air on 17335777, your local travel agent or visit gulfair.com



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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Deals

Tennis

Pro football

College football

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m. MLB: Detroit at Tampa Bay (dld).
AFN-Sports, 8 p.m. College football: Tulsa at Tulane (dld).

Sunday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m. College football: Akron at Penn State.

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. College football: Navy at Ohio State.

AFN-Xtra, 1 a.m. College football: Minnesota at Syracuse.

AFN-Atlantic, 4:30 a.m. College football: Nevada at Notre Dame.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m. College football: Georgia at Oklahoma State.

AFN-Xtra, 4:30 a.m. College football: Missouri at Illinois.

AFN-Sports, 8 a.m. College football: Brigham Young at Oklahoma.

AFN-Xtra, 8 a.m. Auto racing: NASCAR Nationwide DViGHT V12 300.

AFN-Atlantic, 9 a.m. College football: Alabama vs. Virginia Tech at Atlanta.

AFN-Xtra, 11 a.m. College football: Maryland at California.

AFN-Sports, 11:30 a.m. College football: LSU at Washington.

AFN-Xtra, 2 p.m. Tennis: U.S. Open, Day 6 (dld); joined in progress).

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m. College football: Baylor at Wake Forest (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. MLS: Boston at Chicago White Sox (dld).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m. College football: San Jose State at Southern Cal (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 10 p.m. MLS: Toronto at Colorado (dld).

AFN-Xtra, midnight Tennis: U.S. Open, Day 7.

Monday

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m. MLB: Chicago Cubs at N.Y. Mets.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m. College football: Mississippi at Memphis.

AFN-Atlantic, 5 a.m. MLB: Seattle at Oakland.

AFN-Atlantic, 8 a.m. College football: Colorado State at Colorado.

AFN-Xtra, 8:30 a.m. Auto racing: NASCAR Sprint Cup Pep Boys Auto 500.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. MLS: San Diego at L.A. Dodgers.

AFN-Xtra, 4 p.m. MLB: Detroit at Tampa Bay (dld).

AFN-Sports, 4:30 p.m. Golf: PGA FedEx Cup Deutsche Bank Championship, third round (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 11 p.m. MLB: Boston at Chicago White Sox (dld).

AFN-Sports, midnight Tennis: U.S. Open, Day 8.

All times are Japan and Korea Standard; (dld) indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Indiana	20	9	.690		
Atlanta	16	14	.533	4½	
Washington	15	15	.500	5½	
Detroit	14	15	.483	6	
Chicago	14	16	.467	6½	
Connecticut	14	17	.452	7	
New York	12	18	.400	8½	

WESTERN CONFERENCE					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Phoenix	21	10	.677	—	
Seattle	19	12	.613	2	
Los Angeles	15	15	.500	5½	
San Antonio	13	17	.433	7½	
Minnesota	12	18	.400	8½	
Sacramento	11	20	.355	10	

Thursday's game Washington 78, Seattle 67.

Friday's games New York at Connecticut; Indiana at Detroit; Washington at Chicago; Atlanta at Sacramento.

Pro soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference					
	W	L	T	Pts	GF GA
Columbus	10	4	9	39	34 25
Chicago	10	6	8	38	33 28
New England	9	6	6	33	26 26
D.C. United	7	5	11	32	35 34
Toronto FC	8	8	7	31	30 33
Kansas City	5	16	6	21	20 29
New York	4	16	4	16	20 41

Western Conference					
	W	L	T	Pts	GF GA
Houston	11	7	7	40	31 22
Los Angeles	9	4	11	38	28 23
Seattle FC	8	6	10	34	29 23
Colorado	9	7	6	33	35 27
Real Salt Lake	9	9	6	33	35 27
Chivas USA	10	9	3	33	23 24
FC Dallas	6	11	5	23	31 35
San Jose	5	12	5	20	27 40

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games Kansas City at New England; D.C. United at FC Dallas; Toronto FC at Colorado.

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL

MLB—Announced San Francisco Giants minor league pitcher Diego De La Cruz has been suspended 50 games after testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance. The suspension will begin at the start of next season.

American League

BOSTON RED SOX—Sent 1B-OF Jeff Bailey outright to Pawtucket (IL).

CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Recalled RHP Jhonny Nunez from Charlotte (IL). Purchased the contract of RHP Daniel Hudson from Charlotte.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Acquired C Manny Pina and OF Tim Smith from the Texas Rangers in exchange for RHP Danny Gutierez.

AFN-Atlantic, 4:30 a.m. College football: Minnesota at Syracuse.

AFN-Atlantic, 4:30 a.m. College football: Nevada at Notre Dame.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m. College football: Georgia at Oklahoma State.

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AFN-Sports, 8 p.m. College football: San Jose State at Southern Cal (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 10 p.m. MLS: Toronto at Colorado (dld).

AFN-Xtra, midnight Tennis: U.S. Open, Day 7.

National League

FLORIDA MARLINS—Activated INF Nick Johnson from 15-day DL. Purchased the contract of INF Andy Gonzalez from New Orleans (POD).

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Purchased the contract of C Paul Hoover. Designated C Joel Naughton for assignment.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Named Bill Laimbeer, Reggie Theus, Dave Wohl, and J.B. Bickerstaff assistant coaches.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Fired offensive coordinator Jeff Jagodzinski. Named quarterbacks coach Greg Olson offensive coordinator.

United Football League

FLORIDA TUSKERS—Signed DL Willie Andrews, RB Tatum Bell, NT Rien Long, C Enoka Lucas, G Fred Matua, DB DeMarlo Minter, WR Karen Robinson, DE Josh Savage and LB Anthony Schlegel.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

MLS—Signed Colorado M Pablo Mastroeni \$1,250 and suspended him two games for endangering the safety of an opponent during an Aug. 30 game against Houston.

Women's Professional Soccer

PHILADELPHIA INDEPENDENCE—Named Paul Riley coach.

COLLEGE

CABRINI—Named Jeff Falzarano associate athletic director.

FELECIAN—Named David DeFerrari men's basketball coach and recreation/game operations coordinator.

NEW YORK U.—Named Jon Phillips, Andrew Lackman and Rebecca Roberts assistant track and field coaches.

PEPPERDINE—Named Matt Young director of strength and conditioning.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT—Named Paul Fleck women's assistant soccer coach.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS—Named Koby Altman men's basketball graduate assistant.

VIRGINIA TECH—Named Jennifer McGranahan assistant cross country and distance coach.

WISCONSIN-OSHKOSH—Named Pat Ebel women's interim track and field coach.

Tennis

U.S. Open

At The USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

New York

Purse: \$21.6 million (Grand Slam)

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles

Men

Second Round

Tommy Haas (20), Germany, def. Rob-
ert Kendrick, United States, 6-4, 6-4, 7-
6 (3).

Jesse Witten, United States, def. Max-
imo Gonzalez, Argentina, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 7-
5, 6-2.

Fernando Verdasco (10), Spain, def. Flo-
rent Serra, France, 6-3, 6-0, 6-3.

Sam Querrey (22), United States, def. Kevin Kim, United States, 7-5 (6), 6-4, 6-
6.

Nikolay Davydenko (8), Russia, def. Jan Hernych, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2.

Robin Soderling (12), Sweden, def. Marcel Granollers, Spain, 2-0 (40-0), re-
tired.

Tommy Robredo (14), Spain, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 6-2, 6-6, 6-
2.

Radek Stepanek (15), Czech Republic, def. Mihail Youzhny, Russia, 2-6, 7-6 (4), 6-
6.

Marco Chiudinelli, Switzerland, def. Mikhail Youzhny, Russia, 6-7 (6), 6-2, 6-
6.

Stephane Robert, France, 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-
6.

John Isner, United States, def. Marsel Ilhan, Turkey, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (1).

Philippe Kohlschreiber (23), Germany, def. Somdev Devvarman, India, 6-3, 6-4, 6-
2.

Andy Roddick (5), United States, def. Marc-
us Gården, Sweden, 6-3, 6-1, 6-4.

Carsten Ball, Australia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Alona Bondarenko (30), Ukraine, def. Li-
nayha, Belarus, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Nadia Petrova (13), Russia, def. Anna Ch-
erny, Belarus, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Stephanie Dubois, Canada, 6-3, 6-4, 6-
4.

Sports briefs

NFL fines Favre \$10,000 for crackback block

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre was fined \$10,000 by the NFL on Friday for his crackback block on Houston defensive back Eugene Wilson in an exhibition game.

The play happened Monday night at Houston in Favre's first extensive action since he signed with the Vikings on Aug. 18.

Favre, 39, lined up at receiver in Minnesota's version of the wildcat offense. Rookie receiver Percy Harvin took the snap and started running around the left end in Favre's direction. Despite playing with sore ribs, the quarterback crouched and threw his body at Wilson's legs to cut him down.

The game was televised nationally and the block caused an uproar in Houston and elsewhere around the league.

Wilson injured his knee on the play, and defensive players have long considered that type of block a dirty play.

"What was up with that?" Wilson said after the game when asked about the block. "Seriously, what was up with that?"

Favre had been practicing for only 14 days since ending his second retirement to join the Vikings. He said he wasn't trying to injure Wilson and was trying to help Harvin on the run, and knock a little rust off.

"I will be 40 years old in October and [was] weed-eating 13 days ago," Favre said. "I wasn't thinking about throwing blocks."

NHL's Bruins give coach multiyear extension

BOSTON — Boston Bruins coach Claude Julien, who led the team to the highest point total in the Eastern Conference last season, agreed to a multiyear contract extension.

The team made the announcement Friday. Julien led the Bruins to the playoffs in each of his first two seasons in Boston.

Last season, he led the Bruins to a conference-best 116 points. But Boston fell to the Carolina Hurricanes in seven games in the second round of the playoffs.

In his first season, the Bruins lost to Montreal in seven games in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

"It's important to feel the confidence of the people behind me — Mr. (Jeremy) Jacobs and the upper management," Julien said. "It means a lot to me."

Details of the contract extension were not disclosed.

Julien, a native of Blind River, Ont., won the NHL's Jack Adams

Award as the league's top coach after the last season.

In two seasons in Boston, Julien has a 94-48-22 record and a .640 winning percentage.

Rawson shoots course record in Canadian Women's Open

PRIDDIS, Alberta — Anna Rawson shot a course-record 7-under 64 to take a one-stroke lead over Suzann Pettersen in the Canadian Women's Open on Thursday.

Rawson, the 28-year-old Australian who missed nine cuts in 13 previous starts on the LPGA Tour this season, had nine birdies and two bogeys to break Dawn Coe-Jones' Priddis Greens Golf Club course mark by a shot.

Top-ranked Lorena Ochoa, the 2007 winner at Royal Mayfair in Edmonton, was two strokes back along with Amanda Blumenherst, while Michelle Wie opened with a 76.

McGinley revives hopes for Ryder Cup

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, Switzerland — Two good rounds in Switzerland have revived Paul McGinley's hopes of making next year's European Ryder Cup team.

McGinley, who played on three successive winning Ryder Cup teams, is aiming for a fourth career appearance when the competition is played at Celtic Manor in Wales next October.

Following his third winning appearance in 2006 at The K Club outside Dublin, McGinley's game went into a tailspin in 2007. Although his game improved last year, it wasn't enough to earn a spot on the European team that lost to the United States in Kentucky last September.

This year hasn't been much better, until this week. The 42-year-old Irishman shot rounds of 66 and 68 over the mountain course at Crans-sur-Sierre to grab a share of third place halfway through the European Masters.

Goodell sees NFL with uncapped 2010 season

NEW YORK — No NFL salary cap next season seems a foregone conclusion to commissioner Roger Goodell.

Without any substantive negotiations toward a new collective bargaining agreement, Goodell said Thursday team owners are preparing for an uncapped 2010 season, the final year of the current deal that the owners opted out of last year.

"Because of the timing, we recognize there's a strong reality there will be an uncapped year,

and the owners have planned for it," Goodell said. "What the owners' intent is to get an agreement."

Goodell also bristled at the notion the owners would lock out the players in 2011.

"That a lockout would be their objective, that's foolish," he said.

Goodell met with union chief DeMaurice Smith on Tuesday over lunch, but no negotiations took place.

"I told De, 'Let's start negotiating,'" Goodell said, "and that's our intent."

But there is no timetable for beginning significant talks, and the union says the onus is on the owners to present an offer.

Tribe's Sizemore out for season

CLEVELAND — Cleveland Indians center fielder Grady Sizemore will miss the remainder of the season because of soreness in his left elbow, an injury that will require surgery.

No date been set for the surgery.

Sizemore has been bothered by soreness in the elbow for most of the season. He was on the disabled list from May 31 to June 23. The three-time All-Star, a .279 career hitter going into the season, is batting .248 with 18 home runs and 64 RBIs.

Bills fire coordinator over offensive failure

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — The Buffalo Bills fired offensive coordinator Turk Schonert after the offense's dismal performance in the team's exhibition games.

The move was announced by coach Dick Jauron on Friday, less than a day after the Bills (1-4) closed preseason play with a 17-6 loss to the Detroit Lions.

Quarterbacks coach Alex Van Pelt will take over as the Bills prepare to open the season at New England on Sept. 14.

Swine flu forces college to cancel home opener

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Stillman canceled its home opener against Clark Atlanta because of swine flu, college officials announced Thursday.

Stillman was scheduled to play Clark Atlanta on Saturday in Tuscaloosa. But Tigers football coach L.C. Cole says he noticed some of his players were having flu-like symptoms after a morning workout this week.

Cole says he felt compelled to cancel the game after he learned that about 37 of his players had become sick.

The coach says he doesn't know

how everyone became sick.

Both schools are unable to reschedule the game for another date, so Stillman had to forfeit the contest.

Stillman and Clark Atlanta compete in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Ex-Spurs forward Bowen retires

SAN ANTONIO — Bruce Bowen won't be pestering the NBA's best anymore.

The former San Antonio Spurs forward retired Thursday after 12 seasons and a reputation as one of the league's most menacing defenders, hounding opponents with a tenacity that some players groused was more dirty than dogged.

Bowen, 38, called it quits after being waived this summer by Milwaukee, where the Spurs dealt him in a veteran dump-off for swingman Richard Jefferson — a decision Bowen said he understood.

F1's Brawn fined for going faster than 100 mph

PLYMOUTH, England — Formula One team owner Ross Brawn was fined for speeding in England.

Officials said Friday that Brawn was traveling more than 100 mph in a 70 mph zone. He said heavy

traffic caused him to be two hours late for an appointment.

Brown was fined \$1,150 and six points were added to his license. He already had three points, and 12 means he would lose his license.

His team, Brawn GP, leads the Formula One constructors' championship.

Driver Jenson Button leads the drivers' championship.

MLB fines Papelbon again for pace

CHICAGO — Boston Red Sox closer Jonathan Papelbon has been fined again for slowing down games.

Papelbon was fined \$5,000 by Major League Baseball for taking too long to throw his first pitch. A new rule allows pitchers 2 minutes, 20 seconds from the final out of the previous inning to the first pitch. They get 12 seconds to throw once the batter steps into the box.

The fine was first reported by the Boston Herald. Papelbon was fined previously this season.

"After this, I don't know, man," Papelbon told the paper.

"I think they're going to call my parole officer and put me away."

Papelbon has 34 saves in 37 opportunities this season, with a 1.84 ERA.

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AP Top 25 roundup

Tempers flare as Broncos bully Ducks

Oregon RB suspended for season for punching Boise State player

The Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Four quarters of getting flustered by the guys in blue finally made Oregon's LeGarrette Blount snap.

Not only is No. 16 Oregon heading home after getting bullied by No. 14 Boise State, but the Ducks now must try to rebound without their punch-throwing running back.

On Friday, Oregon suspended Blount for the remainder of season, including bowl games. Coach Chip Kelly said Blount will remain on scholarship.

Kellen Moore threw for 197 yards and a touchdown and Boise State pushed around Oregon 19-8 on Thursday night, turning the Broncos' biggest home game ever into a four-quarter party.

That is until the closing moments when Blount lost his cool and punched Boise State's Byron Hout, then needed to be restrained by police and team staff to keep from going after fans.

As the Broncos began celebrating on their famous blue turf, Hout yelled in Blount's face and tapped him on the shoulder pad. That drew an immediate scream from Boise State coach Chris Petersen. But before Petersen could pull Hout away, Blount landed a right to the defensive end's jaw.

Boise Police Lt. Bryan Hagler said the department would not get involved, despite rumors that Blount might be arrested.

Blount set an Oregon record with 17 rushing touchdowns last year, but was held to minus-5 yards rushing on eight carries, part of a miserable offensive night for the Ducks.

NCAA rules on fighting address only pregame and in-game situations, which left the decision on Blount's future resting with the school.

Before Blount's punch, the Ducks were getting beaten up by the Broncos. Nearly every available space inside Bronco Stadium was crammed with fans desperate to see this border-state battle, one that everyone expected to turn into a high-scoring shootout.

If not for two missed field goals, a botched field-goal snap and three turnovers, it very well might have been a high-scoring rout for the Broncos.

They outgained Oregon 361 yards to 152, rolling up 22 first downs to the Ducks' six. The struggles of Kelly's offense were stunning, considering Oregon scored a combined 162 points in its final three games of 2008 and brought back quarterback Jeremiah Masoli to run the show.



SIDELINE SELECTIONS

RANK/TEAMS	(ranked teams in bold)	STORYLINE	Ralph D. Russo • AP	PICKS
Charleston So. at No. 1 Florida (Sat.)	Gators paid \$450,000, or about \$6,400 per point, for this game			Florida 70-7
Louisiana-Monroe at No. 2 Texas	Longhorns have won nine straight openers by average of 43 points			Texas 60-14
No. 3 Okl. vs. No. 20 BYU	Cougars' banged-up O-line leaves little chance of upset			Oklahoma 50-21
San Jose St. at No. 4 USC	Freshman QB Matt Barkley starts for Trojans			USC 45-10
No. 5 Ala. vs. No. 7 Va. Tech	All the makings of defensive struggle			Va. Tech 20-17
Navy at No. 6 Ohio State	Middies' option could prove tricky for Buckeyes — but only a little			Ohio St. 35-14
No. 13 Georgia at No. 9 Okla. St.	SEC 1, Big 12 0			Georgia 31-28
Akron at No. 9 Penn St.	First of three cupcakes to open season for JoePa's team			Penn St. 48-14
No. 11 LSU at Washington	This is no way for Huskies to usher in new era			LSU 48-20
Maryland at No. 12 Cal.	Cal slept through much of last season's 35-27 loss at Terps			Cal 37-10
Jacksonville St. at No. 15 Ga. Tech	Former LSU QB Ryan Perrilloux, now at JSU, suspended for opener			Ga. Tech 58-10
The Citadel at No. 21 UNC	Tar Heels 3-0 vs. Bulldogs; last meeting 1986			UNC 48-14
N. Iowa at No. 22 Iowa	Northern Iowa ranked No. 4 in FCS preseason poll			Iowa 34-17
Nevada at No. 23 Notre Dame	No team has more important opening game than Fighting Irish			Notre Dame 39-17
Fla. Atl. at No. 24 Nebraska	FAU coach Howard Schnellenberger has history of upsetting Huskers			Nebraska 45-21
N. Colo. at No. 25 Kansas	Northern Colorado was 1-10 last season in FCS			Kansas 62-17
No. 8 Miss. at Memphis (Sun.)	Rebels have won four straight against Tigers			Ole Miss 28-14
Miami at No. 18 Fla. St. (Mon.)	First of what should be four ranked opponents to start season for 'Canes			Miami 20-14

Tide, Hokies, highlight opening weekend

No. 5 Alabama starts its season in the Georgia Dome for the second straight year, this time taking on No. 7 Virginia Tech, the Atlantic Coast Conference favorites.

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The total yards were the fewest for Oregon in nearly 15 years. Oregon had the ball for 17 minutes, 28 seconds and didn't get its first first down until only 7:07 remained in the third quarter.

"It's not a situation where you scrap what you do or you throw a fit and yell and scream and all those things," Kelly said. "A lot of it was a byproduct that they're a good football team."

The Broncos had no problem marching. Moore completed 14 of 20 throws in the first half and finished 19-for-29. He was also

given plenty of time in the pocket behind a young offensive line that, for one night, answered the biggest question about the Broncos in the offseason.

No. 19 **Utah** 35, **Utah State**

17: At Salt Lake City, Terrance Cain passed for 286 yards and two touchdowns in his debut and the Utes extended the nation's longest winning streak to 15 games.

Matt Asiata ran for a career-best 156 yards and two touchdowns and David Reed had 10 catches for 172 yards and a touchdown for the Utes.

Longtime Utah assistant Gary Andersen was making his coaching debut at Utah State, which lost to the Utes for the 12th straight time. The score was closer this year, but the Utes dominated the Aggies once again.

Utah finished with 519 yards and held Utah State to 342 — 96 of which came on Robert Turbin's touchdown run in the first quarter.

The Aggies kept it close by forcing three turnovers, but that wasn't enough to make up for going 0-for-12 on third downs.

High school football

Big plays boost Yokota to win over Zama

Stars and Stripes

Yokota's route to a record 40th straight Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools football victory was anything but easy.

Zama American outrushed the Panthers 345-265 and ran 71 plays to Yokota's 47. But Yokota forced six turnovers and recorded two sacks, one for a safety, and Rainey Daley ran for two touchdowns and had 175 total yards in the Panthers' 28-12 victory Friday at Yokota's Bonk Field.

"They have a good team," Yokota coach Tim Pujol said of Zama, which outscored the Panthers 12-0 in the third quarter, fueled by two turnovers. "That third quarter was ugly for us. Pretty sloppy. We hurt ourselves with turnovers and penalties. Definitely a lot to work on."

Elsewhere, three-time Class A champion Robert D. Edgren rebounded from a 40-24 loss at Zama to rout Nile C. Kinnick 51-0 behind Ja'Maal Dennis' three TDs.

On Okinawa, 2007 Class AA champion Kadena got two rushing TDs each from Shariff Coleman and Thomas McDonald to win its 11th straight Okinawa Activities Council game over Kubasaki 27-10 in the first game played at Ryukyu Middle School stadium.

Japan

Yokota 28, Zama American 12: At Yokota Air Base, the Panthers lost four

fumbles and an interception and were penalized seven times for 53 yards, four of which halted drives. Two big plays were largely responsible for Yokota keeping Zama at arm's length:

With Yokota backed up to its 3-yard line on third-and-30 in the second quarter, Bradley Forbes took a handoff on a trap play, somehow found his way through a wall of defenders and raced 97 yards for a TD.

After Zama crept within 22-12 late in the third quarter, Daley took a handoff on another trap play and blistered his way almost untouched to the end zone.

"They were great plays," Pujol said.

He also got help from a defense that bent but didn't break, stopping the Trojans on downs three times in Yokota's red zone and on turnovers four other times.

"Missed opportunities," said coach Steven Merrell, whose Trojans were missing two-way star Michael Spencer and lost several others along the way. "We can't blame it on that. We have to learn to take advantage of those opportunities. And we have to quit giving up big plays."

D.J. Ward, who ran for 83 yards on 10 carries, broke the shutout with a 9-yard run and Mike Jorgenson sneaked in from 3 yards out to make it 22-12. Ashton Norwood had 206 yards on 30 carries.

Yokota also got a safety from defensive end Kevin Eckert and a 25-yard touchdown pass from DeEric Harvin to Paul

Floyd. Forbes had 104 yards on three carries and Harvin, nursing a sore ankle, was 8-for-13 for 86 yards. Eckert had two sacks and Jake Jackson a recovery and a sack.

Robert D. Edgren 51, Nile C. Kinnick

0: At Misawa Air Base, Dennis ran 21 times for 230 yards, including a 95-yard touchdown run. Cheston Nuriel-Dacalio had 110 yards and a touchdown on seven carries and Zach Davis passed for a touchdown and ran for one.

"My kids worked pretty hard," Eagles coach Chris Waite said. "We have a lot of hard work still ahead of us."

Matt Delapaz ran back an interception 65 yards for a touchdown and John Benavidez ran 25 yards for a score. Davis finished 3-for-5 for 80 yards, hitting Matt Linder for a 40-yard touchdown strike, and running 70 yards for a TD.

Okinawa

Kadena 27, Kubasaki 10: At Kadena Air Base, the Panthers had it no easier than their Yokota counterparts, trailing 10-7 to the Dragons for the first time since the 2006 season before scoring the last 20 points.

Kubasaki "showed us some things we hadn't prepared for," and the Panthers hurt themselves with three first-half fumbles, Panthers coach Sergio Mendoza said. "But we cleaned up our act. ... (Kubasaki) gave us a lot of things to prepare for."

Coleman ran 5 and 19 yards for touch-



ANASTASIA RODGERS/Special to Stars and Stripes

Yokota RB Gerald McCloud gets tackled by Zama American cornerback Cory Peckins on Friday at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Yokota prevailed 28-12, winning its 40th straight Kanto Plain game.

downs, finishing with 71 yards on 12 carries. McDonald had 10 carries for 60 yards, running for TDs of 3 and 4 yards.

Dragons quarterback A.J. Watson had 124 yards total offense, going 3-for-7 for 82 yards, including a 62-yard TD strike to Jalah Patton. Mikael Barge added 30 yards on nine carries in his final Kubasaki game before he transfers.

NFL exhibition

Vick struggles after TD run in Eagles' loss to Jets

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Michael Vick took off, eluded a few tacklers and showed flashes of what once made him one of the NFL's most exciting players.

"I think we got a chance to see that he's got a little juice in those legs," Philadelphia Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "He turned it on there a couple of times."

Vick, who found out earlier Thursday that he'll be eligible to play in the third game, might need those first two weeks of the regular season to truly get back up to speed. In his first significant action in three years, the Eagles quarterback ran for a 2-yard touchdown, but was sacked four times, lost a fumble and had a pass intercepted as the New York Jets beat the Eagles 38-27.

"I still think I'm a couple of weeks away," Vick said. "I'll take this time to get myself in shape, build my endurance, continue to strengthen my legs and to work my mind with the offense."

Vick was released from federal custody July 20 after serving 18 months of a 23-month sentence for his role in operating a dog-fighting ring. He recently signed with the Eagles, and met with commissioner Roger Goodell at the team's hotel a few hours before the game. Goodell announced that Vick will be eligible to play in Philadelphia's home game on Sept. 27 against the Kansas City Chiefs.

"It's still somewhat like a dream when I step out there on the field, coming where I came from two years ago and where I've been," Vick said. "I just try to enjoy the moment. I can't complain about anything."

He finished 7-for-11 for 26

yards, and carried the ball seven times for 35 yards.

"It was good to get him in there," Reid said. "I'm sure he'll be a little sore tomorrow. That's OK. He'll have a couple of weeks to recover from it."

Booed each time he ran onto

the field in the first half, Vick lined up at quarterback, faked a handoff and ran up the middle 25 seconds into the second quarter to give the Eagles a 14-7 lead. It was his first TD since 2006.

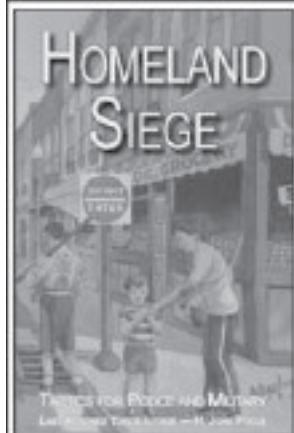
"I didn't even know what to do with myself," he said. "I always

told myself I was going to keep the ball, hand it to an offensive lineman, spike it. I got up and I just lost it. My mind went blank. I just ran off the field like nothing happened."

Vick entered the game on the Eagles' third play from scrim-

mage and ran 2 yards for a first down. He was in and out of the lineup in the first half, and his first pass was intercepted. His toss intended for Jeremy Maclin was underthrown from 36 yards as Dwight Lowery picked it off.

Danny Woodhead, bidding to make the Jets' roster, ran for 158 yards—the NFL's second-highest total in an exhibition game since 1992—and two touchdowns.



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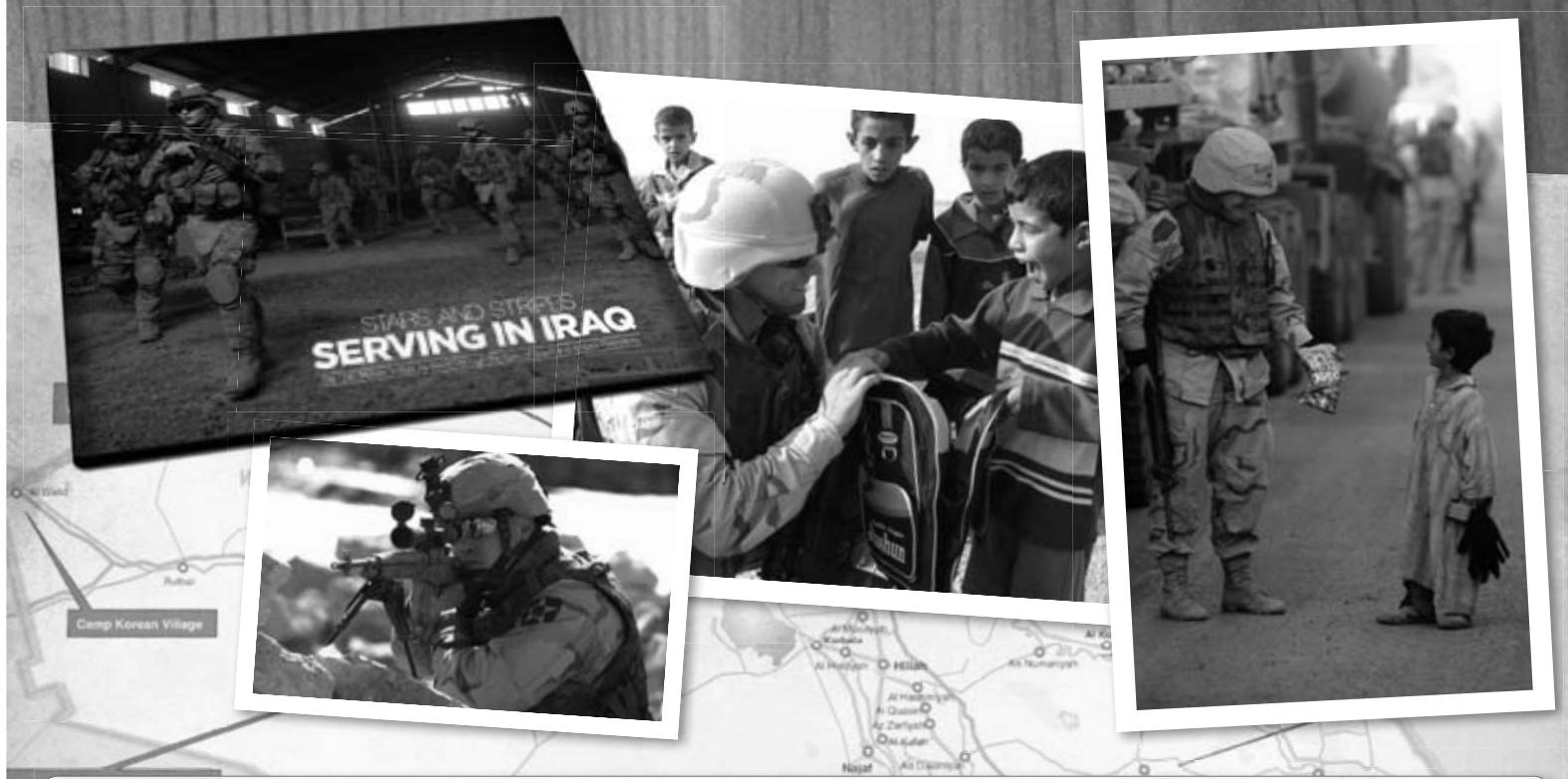
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American League

	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg
Los Angeles	496	73	122	20	49	.283
New York	470	73	126	10	74	.292
Minnesota	558	65	124	14	64	.222
Baltimore	465	61	124	135	58	.269
Cleveland	458	66	122	141	62	.267
Boston	457	71	120	173	67	.267
Tampa Bay	453	68	120	173	65	.266
Toronto	468	63	124	160	60	.265
Texas	454	69	118	199	61	.260
Chicago	453	612	1175	159	587	.259
Seattle	4609	537	1188	132	514	.258
Detroit	4488	613	1158	156	591	.258
Oakland	4599	600	1175	112	571	.255
Kansas City	4522	543	1150	117	520	.254

INDIVIDUAL BATTING

	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg
Mauer Min	417	80	153	26	80	.367
Isuzuki Sea	525	75	189	8	36	.360
McCarthy Det	495	80	167	27	83	.337
Bailey TB	410	70	138	12	59	.337
Isteb NY	540	95	188	18	62	.330
MyYoung Tex	521	76	168	22	62	.322
Cano NY	541	90	172	22	74	.318
Youkilis Bos	412	85	130	23	80	.316
Acabreia Cle	439	69	138	5	56	.314
KMorales LAA	466	73	146	30	94	.313
Span Min	466	76	146	6	52	.313
Pierzynski CWS	422	50	132	13	40	.313
Figgins LAA	510	100	158	3	47	.310
Crawford TB	516	81	159	13	61	.308
Markakis Bal	544	79	166	16	90	.305
Kubel Min	413	55	126	22	79	.305
Lind Tor	504	76	152	28	91	.302
Choo Cle	490	72	148	14	74	.302
JRivera LAA	430	61	130	21	76	.301
Ebybari OA	469	73	146	5	49	.301
Ellsbury Bos	519	95	155	10	48	.300
Lowell Bos	381	50	114	6	29	.299
Podsednik CWS	439	63	131	5	41	.298
Babreua LAA	467	81	138	12	86	.296
Pedroia Bos	522	94	154	10	57	.295
Butler KC	495	60	146	15	67	.295
Callaspo KC	474	63	139	8	53	.293
VMartinez Bos	497	74	145	20	88	.292
Damon NY	474	97	138	24	75	.291
FGutierrez Sea	454	68	131	15	56	.289
Morneau Min	475	83	136	29	96	.286
AHill Tor	572	81	163	31	89	.285
Zobrist TB	403	75	115	23	72	.285
Broberts Bal	531	95	151	14	62	.284
Scutaro Tor	519	92	147	11	56	.283
Tetera NY	509	84	143	24	107	.282
Konerko CWS	465	72	138	24	78	.280
Kennedy Oak	436	48	122	10	50	.280
Ordonez Det	375	45	105	7	40	.280
Teahan KC	463	65	129	11	46	.279
AlRamirez CWS	451	59	126	15	60	.279
AdJones Bal	473	83	131	19	70	.277
RSweeney Oak	411	52	114	6	39	.277
McCabrera NY	405	57	112	11	51	.277
ARodriguez NY	362	65	130	22	77	.276
Longoria TB	483	83	133	26	94	.275
OCabrera Min	532	55	146	5	55	.274
DeJesus KC	492	63	135	12	57	.274
JHernandez Cle	475	50	130	11	70	.274
Cuddyer Min	474	76	130	24	67	.274
DMYer Tex	453	54	124	15	66	.274
Dolanco Det	501	66	137	9	60	.274
KGarcia LAA	47	57	120	10	65	.273
NCRUZ Tex	385	57	104	30	62	.272
Overbay Tor	468	94	144	12	59	.272
Andrus Tex	373	57	100	6	29	.270
JDrew Bos	389	72	104	19	56	.267
HMatsui NY	378	51	100	23	74	.265
JoLopez Sea	500	56	132	20	80	.264
Scott Bal	368	53	96	21	64	.261
Bay Bos	443	85	115	30	96	.260
Dye CWS	442	71	115	25	72	.260
Granderson Det	511	80	131	26	60	.256
Kinsler Tex	468	84	119	29	78	.254
Branyan Sea	431	64	108	31	76	.251
Rios CWS	500	56	125	15	65	.250
VWells Tor	519	70	129	13	55	.249
Sizemore Cle	436	73	108	18	64	.248
Swisher NY	416	67	103	23	72	.248
AHoff Det	470	54	122	13	76	.243
Bupton TB	491	70	117	9	42	.238
Cust Oak	437	72	104	20	58	.238
Blalock Tex	411	54	98	23	58	.238
Inge Det	452	64	106	26	70	.235
DORTiz Bos	453	62	102	22	79	.225
CPena TB	460	89	103	39	78	.224

TEAM PITCHING

	ERA	H	E	BB	SO	Sh	SV
Seattle	3.90	1128	526	457	887	8	42
Detroit	4.16	1166	545	477	924	9	34
Chicago	4.17	1193	553	433	941	8	31
Texas	4.23	1164	556	445	819	10	40
Tampa Bay	4.23	1220	567	433	1034	8	37
New York	4.31	115	577	463	104	7	43
Oakland	4.41	1242	586	447	106	7	31
Toronto	4.41	1222	585	455	987	19	27
Minnesota	4.65	1265	614	378	896	4	36
Los Angeles	4.74	1254	623	441	933	9	39
Kansas City	4.84	1219	628	456	948	7	24
Cleveland	5.01	1274	657	487	807	5	22
Baltimore	5.05	1343	665	447	778	2	27

INDIVIDUAL PITCHING

	IP	H	BB	SO	W	LERA
Grein KC	190	165	40	202	13	82.32
Fernandez Sea	193	168	58	185	14	52.65
EJackson Det	175	159	58	137	11	63.09
Halladay Tor	190	193	25	165	13	83.13
CCle Cle	152	165	33	107	9	93.14
Verlander Det	189	169	53	215	15	73.38
Sabathia NY	199	176	50	167	16	73.48
Washburn Det	170	150	44	97	9	83.55
Lester Bos	174	160	55	196	11	73.58
Witbeck Tex	167	162	50	184	10	83.61
Feldman Tex	150	159	50	88	14	43.72
Niemann TB	147	143	47	92	12	58.30
Danks CWS	160	149	60	127	12	83.82
JShields TB	186	203	45	134	9103.86	
Buehrle CWS	184	191	36	91	11	73.86
Beckett Bos	181	162	48	172	14	52.87
Braden Oak	137	144	42	81	8	93.89
JerWeaver LAA	173	158	56	148	13	53.89
Lackey LAA	138	137	40	114	9	73.92
GFloyd CWS	177	165	56	149	10	93.97
Garza TB	171	148	67	152	9	94.01
Pettitte NY	167	166	59	132	12	64.03
RRomero Tor	141	147	64	121	11	74.15
Blackburn Min	169	201	38	75	9	94.16
Porcello Det	136	140	42	72	12	84.88
ABurnett NY	140	155	52	155	10	84.88
Chavez NY	134	158	33	119	8	84.38
Bardson Oak	147	150	55	119	11	70.42
SParker Min	160	152	31	131	12	74.44
Cahill Oak	158	165	64	79	8124.66	
Bannister KC	154	161	50	124	73.47	
JSaunders LAA	149	161	56	82	11	75.22
Galarraga Det	135	147	58	88	6	105.05
Pavano Min	157	181	30	112	11	110.51
Tallet Tor	134	136	48	95	9	95.17
Guthrie Bal	160	173	48	89	9	9135.18

TEAM PITCHING

	ERA	H	E	BB	SO	Sh	SV
Seattle	3.48	1055	477	497	1047	8	42
San Francisco	3.50	1051	464	471	1064	18	35
St. Louis	3.63	1170	484	371	847	9	30
Atlanta	3.71	1163	494	440	1007	7	30
Chicago	3.89	1093	511	491	1022	4	23
Philadelphia	4.10	1180	539	402	940	7	35
Arizona	4.23	1218	569	422	964	12	26
Colorado	4.24	1209	560	411	909	7	36
Florida	4.33	1189	577	492	1021	4	23
Cincinnati	4.38	1197	584	488	1031	7	32
New York	4.44	1238	592	453	1070	12	32
Houston	4.52	1238	592	453	1070	9	32
Pittsburgh	4.57	1219	588	461	1052	7	32
San Diego	4.60	1206	617	500	969	4	35
Milwaukee	4.64	1226	639	500	896	7	36

NL roundup

Giants run into the Pedro of old

Oft-injured ace reaches back to glory days to best Lincecum

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Pedro Martinez relished the playoff atmosphere and brought his best stuff.

Martinez allowed a run and five hits over seven innings, and Ryan Howard doubled in the tie-breaking run as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the San Francisco Giants 2-1 on Thursday night.

Martinez (3-0) struck out a season-high nine in his fifth start since signing with the Phillies during the All-Star break. He didn't walk a batter and threw just 87 pitches in his longest outing since last Aug. 21 with the New York Mets.

"I have a great sense of satisfaction to show I'm able to still do it even if I'm not 100 percent there yet," Martinez said. "I wanted this kind of game. I want to help



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Pedro Martinez, winner of three Cy Young Awards, beat last year's winner, Tim Lincecum, as Philadelphia topped San Francisco 2-1 Thursday night. Martinez allowed a run and five hits in seven innings

this team win not just now, but in the future."

Jayson Werth homered for the NL East-leading Phillies, who are 16-6 since being swept by Florida at home last month.

Eugenio Velez hit a leadoff homer for the Giants, who remained one game behind Colorado in the NL wild-card race.

Martinez, 37, plagued by injuries and inconsistency during his final three seasons with the Mets, looked like the guy who won three Cy Young Awards and was one of the most dominant pitchers of his generation.

Martinez had plenty of pop on his fastball, often reaching the low 90s on the radar gun, and mixed in an effective changeup.

"That was vintage Pedro," said closer Brad Lidge, who pitched out of a jam in the ninth for his 28th save in 37 chances.

Tim Lincecum (13-5) was the tough-luck loser for the Giants, who've scored the second-fewest runs in the NL. Lincecum struck out 11 in seven innings, allowing two runs and four hits. It was the seventh time this season the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner gave up two earned runs or fewer and didn't get a victory.

Mets 8, Rockies 3: At Denver,

David Wright drove in three runs and Pat Misch pitched seven innings for his first major league victory. Wright went 3-for-4 in his second start since coming off the disabled list after being beaned.

Marlins 8, Braves 3: At Miami, Hanley Ramirez hit a tying, pinch-hit single and scored the go-ahead run in his first game since teammate Dan Uggla publicly challenged his effort.

Ramirez's single in the sixth off Kris Medlen (3-5) made it 3-3. The NL batting leader made it to second when right fielder Matt Diaz let the ball skip by him for an error, then scored on Cody Ross' double to highlight a six-run inning.

Dodgers 4, Diamondbacks 2: At Los Angeles, Jon Garland, facing the team that traded him to the Dodgers three days earlier, retired the last 14 batters and Manny Ramirez homered for the NL West leaders.

Garland (9-11) gave up two runs and five hits in seven innings, including a solo homer to Stephen Drew. He struck out six and walked one. The right-hander has won three consecutive starts after going 1-9 with a 4.50 ERA over his previous 16 outings.

AL roundup

Rays, not Jays, fall victim to Boston's Buchholz

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Clay Buchholz finally beat a team other than the Toronto Blue Jays, and it helped Boston get a key victory over Tampa Bay.

Buchholz (4-3) allowed three runs and six hits over six innings as the AL wild card-leading Red Sox hurt Tampa Bay's playoff hopes with a 6-3 victory Thursday night.

Relievers Billy Wagner, Daniel Bard and Jonathan Papelbon, who got the final three outs for his 34th save, each pitched a hit-less inning.

"That was the first thing that went through my head when Pap

got that last out, that I got a win" over a team besides the Blue Jays, Buchholz said.

Buchholz was 0-3 in six previous starts this year against teams not based in Toronto.

Things didn't start well on Thursday night. Buchholz was given a two-run lead in the first on Jason Bay's two-run double, but let it slip away in Tampa Bay's first at-bat.

"The way the game started, if he doesn't hold it together, we're going to that bullpen early," Boston manager Terry Francona said. "He pitches well enough to hold them down, and I thought he was pretty good."

The Red Sox won their first series in St. Petersburg since Sept. 21-23, 2007, by winning two of three. Boston dropped the defending AL champion Rays six games back in the wild-card race. Texas is three games behind the Red Sox.

"It would have been nice to win two out of three, but it's not devastating," Rays manager Joe Maddon said. "I won't fault the effort. They outpitched us. That's just how it works sometimes."

Tampa Bay left-hander David Price gave up four runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Mike Lowell broke a 3-3 tie with a sixth-inning sacrifice fly, and

an RBI single by Victor Martinez and a run-scoring grounder by Kevin Youkilis put Boston ahead 6-3 in the seventh. Rocco Baldelli hit a solo homer in the second.

"Nobody likes coming in here," Baldelli said. "To be able to come in here at any point and win a series is very big."

Evan Longoria had a run-scoring double in the first, his 27th RBI against Boston this season. Since 1954, the most RBIs in one season against Boston is 29, by Detroit Hall of Famer Al Kaline in 1959.

Yankees 10, Blue Jays 5: Jorge Posada homered and drove in four runs, and Alex Rodriguez

also homered as visiting New York won its seventh straight, and 14th in its past 17 road games.

Posada's homer was his 20th, giving New York a major league-leading seven players with at least that many. Posada went 4-for-5 and hit his 340th career double, moving past Bob Meusel into ninth on the team's career list.

Mariners 7, Athletics 4: Bill Hall, Franklin Gutierrez and Kenji Johjima each hit two-run homers to help Ian Snell (4-1) win his fourth straight start. Johjima's fourth-inning drive gave the visiting Mariners breathing room after the A's had pulled within a run.

FOOTBALL Preview

**This Sunday through Thursday,
September 6-September 10**

STARS AND STRIPES
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Check out your favorite teams and players, including division previews, predictions, and game schedules.



2009 NFL PREVIEW

Brady's return raises expectations

Patriots could be team to beat with QB back from injury

BY BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

The Boss is back. Time for the New England Patriots — and the NFL — to rock again. Tom Brady, the NFL's version of Bruce Springsteen/Bono/Tom Petty, is throwing passes and avoiding paparazzi, and pro football is better for it. This guy is no halftime act at the Super Bowl. He's the reason New England again is favored to play in the big game.

The expectations are high only until you consider what Brady has done this decade — aside from marrying a supermodel and becoming fodder for the entertainment tabloids and TMZ.

The superstar quarterback guided New England to three NFL championships in four Super Bowl appearances. Two years ago, he put together the greatest season any passer has compiled, resurrecting Randy Moss' career in the bargain. The guy hasn't lost a regular-season game since 2006, having gone down with a knee injury in last year's opener after directing the Patriots to a 16-0 record in 2007.

When he was knocked out by the Kansas City Chiefs, the NFL lost pizazz. While New England didn't exactly misplace its mojo without Brady — the Pats went 11-5 — there were no playoffs for the Matt Cassel-led team. More significantly, there was no Brady Watch: no chase for more records; no political candidates knocking down his door for endorsements; no flood of TV commercials. Pretty much no



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

Tom Brady, the Patriots' marquee superstar, is back in the huddle after a left knee injury cost him almost all of the 2008 season.

Brady sightings as he recuperated.

Is he fully recovered? The left leg seems to be holding up, although former teammate Rodney Harrison, who had his share of knee operations, says anyone who has undergone a knee operation struggles to get past the doubts.

"I'm sure Tom has had some of that. It's only natural," he said.

And when Brady was removed from last week's exhibition game at Washington after massive defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth toppled him — Brady came away with a sore shoulder — many others wondered if, at 32, was Brady getting a tad brittle.

"I've been dealing with this for a long time, almost for

the last year. I know where I'm at," he said. "I know how I feel, how comfortable I am back there, and I try to convey that I feel like that was part of last season. This season has been a different year for me. I've already missed a year. I've already paid the price for it.

"Moving forward, you've just got to try to work as hard as you can to get back to your normal self and I really feel like I am. ... I think if I make a poor play, I never have thought, 'Well, I wonder if it was because of my injury last year.' I think, 'Well, I've got to make improvements.' Just like every year where things don't really go your way."

Given Brady's propensity for performing like, well, a Grammy winner, it might be wise to put all doubts aside and just tune in to what he does starting Sept. 14 against the Buffalo Bills.

Until then, there are plenty of other NFL story threads to follow.

Even before the season kicks off with the now-traditional Thursday nighter on Sept. 10 — the defending champion Pittsburgh Steelers host the Tennessee Titans — the NFL has been a whirlwind, particularly off the field. Consider these sagas, all of which will continue being played out over the next five months, heading toward the Super Bowl in Miami:

■ **Michael Vick in Philadelphia.** After serving 18 months in prison for his involvement in dogfighting, the former Atlanta Falcons star landed with the Eagles in mid-August. He has been cleared by commissioner Roger Goodell to return for the third game, Sept. 27 against the Chiefs. In his first action for Philly, six plays mostly as a shotgun quarterback, Vick looked rusty. He scored a rushing TD in his second outing, but his impact could be minimal this season.

■ **Brett Favre in Minnesota.** The Favre circus — Cheeseheads are calling it a fiasco (and worse) — finally set up its tent in the Twin Cities, weeks after the NFL's career passing leader said no (wink, wink) to

the Vikings. Soon to be 40, with a damaged rotator cuff and, at least in some circles, a tattered legacy, ol' Brett is being counted on to lift the Vikings to a title.

If he is the Favre of the first 11 games of 2008 with the New York Jets, when he was healthy, Minnesota made a good decision. If he is the injured No. 4 of the final six weeks, Vikings coach Brad Childress might be joining Favre in retirement next year.

■ **Who's that coach?** Let's see, there are 32 NFL franchises and 11 have new head coaches. Fourteen also have new offensive coordinators, and an almost unfathomable 22 have new defensive coordinators since the last preseason. Plus, 12 clubs changed special teams coordinators.

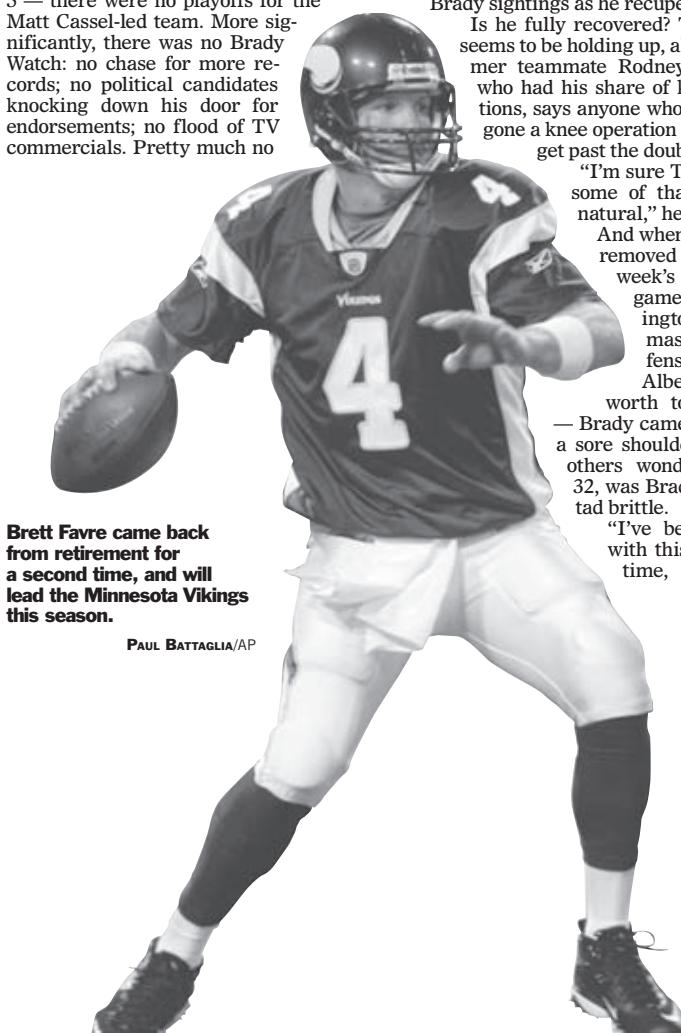
Two (San Francisco's Mike Singletary and Oakland's Tom Cable) moved up from interim positions after replacing fired head coaches last season. One (Seattle's Jim Mora) was a coach-in-waiting last year.

Two others, Raheem Morris in Tampa Bay and Josh McDaniels in Denver, are 33 years old. Neither is off to a promising start. Morris' roster has been gutted, including the purging of linebacker Derrick Brooks, one of the Bucs' all-time greats. McDaniels feuded with, then dealt away quarterback Jay Cutler — who was the last franchise QB in his prime to be traded like that — and still has turmoil on his hands with recalcitrant receiver Brandon Marshall and dozens of other questions.

On the eve of the season, the Chiefs' Todd Haley fired offensive coordinator Chan Gailey, never a good sign. Detroit's Jim Schwartz, well taught by Jeff Fisher in Tennessee, takes over a team that won all of zero games in 2008.

Rex Ryan got the position in New York when the Jets fired Eric Mangini, who promptly landed in Cleveland. Both have significantly rejigged their rosters.

Steve Spagnuolo, mastermind of the New York Giants' brilliant defensive schemes the past two years, is in St. Louis, where SEE EXPECTATIONS ON PAGE 47

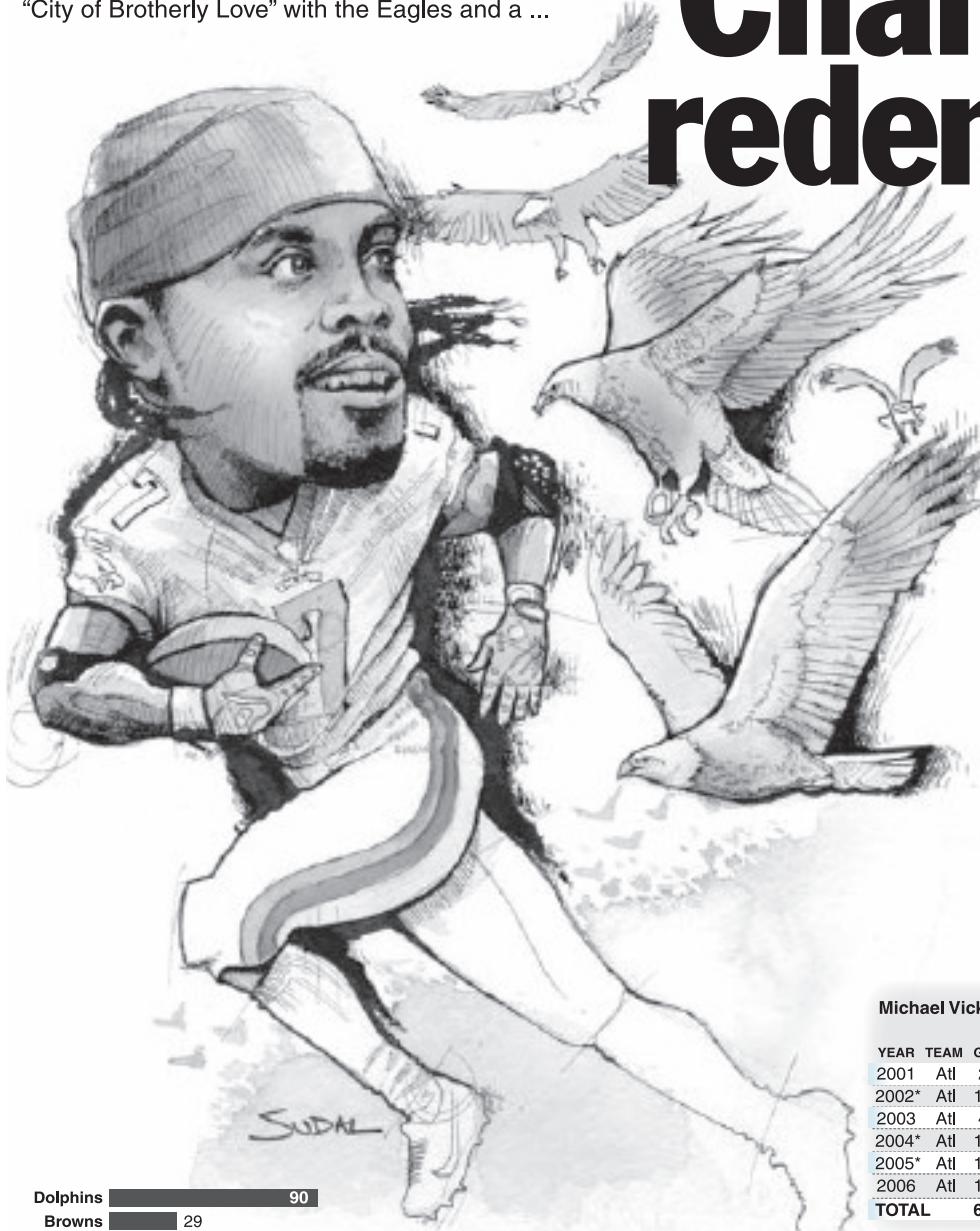


Brett Favre came back from retirement for a second time, and will lead the Minnesota Vikings this season.

PAUL BATTAGLIA/AP

2009 NFL PREVIEW

After 18 months in federal prison on dogfighting charges, Michael Vick tries to resurrect his career in the "City of Brotherly Love" with the Eagles and a ...



Dolphins 90

Browns 29

Falcons 15

Chiefs 13

49ers 13

Raiders 12

Bills 11

Panthers 11

Rams 9

Jets 8

Eagles 5

Cardinals 4

Bears 4

Patriots 3

Bengals 2

Texans 2

Overall 237 1,375 5.8 13

Chargers 2

Rushing 220 1,243 5.7 10

Buccaneers 2

Passing 17 132 7.8 3

League goes 'wild' over offense

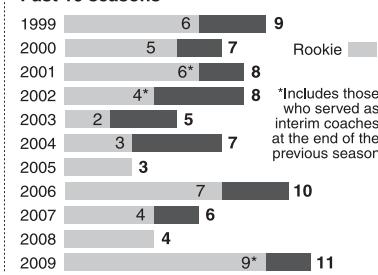
The wildcat formation, used by the Miami Dolphins with much success last year, will likely continue to be incorporated into NFL schemes this season.

Number of times wildcat formation used, 2008

New faces in the coaching ranks

Of the record-tying 11 new head coaches this season, nine will be top dog for the first time.

Past 10 seasons



Decade's best

The top five regular-season records of the past 10 years (1999-08):

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	BERTHS	
					PLAYOFF	SUPER BOWL
Colts	114	46	0	.713	9	1
Patriots	110	50	0	.688	6	4
Steelers	100	59	1	.628	6	2
Eagles	97	62	1	.609	7	1
Titans	96	64	0	.600	6	1
TOTAL	67	53.8	11,505	71	52	21
					529	3,859

Everything's bigger in Texas

Cowboys Stadium, the team's new venue in Arlington, will host its first regular-season game when the NFC East rival Giants visit on Sept. 20.



Capacity: 80,000 regular season; expandable to 100,000

Amenities: Retractable roof; world's largest HD video screen: 60 yards long, stretching from 20-yard line to 20-yard line

Construction cost: \$1.15 billion
Super Bowl host: 2011

Sources: National Football League; STATS LLC

EXPECTATIONS, FROM PAGE 46

there are few playmakers. The other newcomers should envy Jim Caldwell, who has three-time MVP Peyton Manning among his Colts. Of course, he's replacing one of the NFL's most respected people, let alone coaches, Tony Dungy, adding expectations to Caldwell's plate.

Unsigned stars. Brooks has yet to sign with anyone. Same for Marvin Harrison,

who was not re-signed by the Colts. That's two likely Hall of Famers on the market.

Labor issues. Fans want to hear about TDs and shutouts, not CBAs and lockouts. But the next few months will include numerous negotiations between the league and the NFL Players Association, which has a new, aggressive executive director, DeMaurice Smith. The owners opted out of the current agreement, which will end

after the 2010 season. And if no new deal is reached before March, there almost certainly will be no salary cap in '10.

That isn't quite as ominous as it sounds, because there will be further restrictions on free agency and player movement. But it is ominous.

For now, there is anticipation of a new season, of finding the team that will go from stinker to contender (the Packers?).

or plummet (Buccaneers?). Of discovering new stars (Baltimore RB Ray Rice? Pittsburgh LB Lawrence Timmons?) and feeling sorry for faded ones (Favre?).

And it's time to welcome back the biggest star in the NFL universe. Sure, Eli Manning and Philip Rivers recently received more lucrative contracts than Brady has. But they're still role players compared with the NFL's Boss.

Marquee matchups

Eight games worth watching:



Titans at Steelers

Sept. 10
Thursday night opener features 2008 champ (Pittsburgh) and AFC's No. 1 seed (Tennessee)



Giants at Cowboys

Sept. 20
'Boys open new stadium hosting division rival on Sunday night



Colts at Titans

Oct. 11
Showdown between AFC South rivals in prime time on Sunday night



Patriots at Buccaneers

Oct. 25
London's Wembley Stadium hosts NFL's third regular-season game overseas



Cardinals at Bears

Nov. 8
Can Chicago's stingy D stop Arizona's high-powered offense?



Falcons at Giants

Nov. 22
Atlanta QB Matt Ryan looks to shine on Broadway versus Eli Manning and the Giants



Vikings at Panthers

Dec. 20
Carolina's rushing attack faces Minnesota's run-stuffing defense



Eagles at Cowboys

Jan. 3
Final weekend features these division rivals. Will a playoff berth be on the line?

SPORTS

**TOP 25 MATCHUP TURNS UGLY**

Oregon RB suspended for season for punching Boise State DE after frustrating defeat, Page 40

2009 NFL PREVIEW

**'The Boss'
returns.
Time for
the Patriots
— and the NFL —
to rock again.**

Page 46



BRADY'S BACK

CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Graphic content: The Associated Press provides an illustrated look at key story lines and marquee matchups in the coming season. **Page 47.**

Coming Monday: Capsule previews of the teams in the AFC East and NFC East.

Also Monday: After years of the 4-3 as the dominant defensive scheme, more teams are choosing the 3-4.

